Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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China Expected To Become Major Importer of Arab Oil

NC1611221393 Paris AFP in English 2137 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 16 (AFP)—China is expected to become a net oil importer in the next few years and Arab states will be the main beneficiaries, an official Arab report obtained here Tuesday [16 November] said.

China's demand for oil would rise to three million barrels per day (bpd) by 1995 and around 3.7 million bpd by 2000 due to rapid economic growth, said the report published by the Cairo-based Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

Arab countries in the Middle East would be "the main source of crude supplies for China," it said.

China currently produces around 2.8 million bpd, and its output is projected to reach three million bpd by 1995 and 3.1 million bpd by 2000.

China, with estimated crude reserves of 24 billion barrels, already plans to import 60,000 bpd from Saudi Arabia under an agreement signed in July during a visit to Riyadh by Chinese Vice Premier Li Lanping.

Around 20,000 bpd will also be supplied by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), already a major fertilizer exporter to Beijing.

Arab states produce more than 16 million bpd of oil but some of them, mainly in the Gulf, have embarked on major projects to expand output capacity to meet a projected increase in world demand.

Around 2.8 million bpd of Arab crude are exported to Japan, four million bpd to the European Community, two million bpd to the United States and the rest to other countries, mainly in Asia.

Gulf Arab states alone produce around 13 million bpd.

According to the 10-nation OAPEC, Arab proven crude reserves stood at 628.4 billion barrels at the end of 1992, accounting for 61.8 percent of the total world oil reserves of 1,016 billion barrels.

Since 1991 Qatar's reserves have fallen to 3.73 billion barrels from 4.5 billion, and Kuwait's to 96.5 billion barrels from 97 billion.

The loss in Kuwait was caused by the torching of nearly 700 wells by Iraqi invasion forces just before they were driven out by a U.S.-led coalition in February 1991.

The report showed reserves in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the UAE remained unchanged at 260 billion, 100 billion and 98.1 billion barrels respectively.

Arab, Western News Agencies Meet at Casablanca Forum

LD1611171493 Rabat MAP in English 1249 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Casablanca, Nov. 16 (MAP)—The follow-up committee of dialog between Arab and international news agencies started its fifth session here Monday [15 November] under the chairmanship of Director General of the Moroccan News Agency (MAP) and Chairman of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) Abdeljalil Fenjiro.

The opening session was marked by the addresses made by Fenjiro on behalf of Arab news agencies and by Director of the External Relations Department of the French Agency 'AFP' Michel Saint-Pol on behalf of international press agencies.

Fenjiro stressed the importance of the session as it will undoubtedly, he said, contribute to further dialog and provide opportunity to examine means of enhancing contacts among news agencies both at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

After he underlined the interest Arab news agencies grant to their relations with internatiomal agencies and their desire to upgrade cooperation with these agencies in matters of communication, training and new technologies, Fenjiro said the Arab six hopes that the meeting will be crowned by the elaboration of a new strategy opening new prospects to the two sixes professional relations and deepening mutual understanding.

Fenjiro went on to say that the changes that swept over the world and that impacted on the media world prompt Arab news agencies to seek a more consolidated cooperation with international news agencies.

Underlining that this meeting like the previous ones will ponder on all issues of mutual concern and take measures likely to improve understanding between the two sides, Fenjiro said the gathering will however focus on the remarks made by Arab news agencies. These remarks are related to the news on the arab world as circulated by international agencies, the setting of the subscription fees to these agencies' news services and the organization of more training courses to the benefit of Arab newsmen.

Arab news agencies are also eager to benefit from the experience of international peers in computerization, setting up of data banks and development of satellite transmissions, Fenjiro said, adding that they also hope that the news on the Arab world circulated by international news agencies be tackled objectively as agreed upon during the committee's previous meetings. Fenjiro voiced hope that the Casablanca meeting would usher in a new era of fruitful cooperation in the realms of exchange of information, training and technology transfer to enable Arab news agencies be up to international peers.

He pointed out that in a bid to enrich dialog, MAP has elaborated a working document putting forward a number of proposals on the exchange of experience, computerization, creation of data banks and via-satellite transmissions.

MAP also proposes to debate relations between international news agencies and the Bureaux of Arab News Agencies and the possibility to extend assistance to Arab correspondents and special envoys, Fenjiro said.

Saint-Pol who made the address on behalf of international news agencies underlined the interest the latters grant to such meetings as they enable them grasp and define the needs of Arab news agencies and identify efficient actions.

He voiced the international news agencies' determination to thoroughly examine with Arab peers the actions that are attainable and to push forward bilateral cooperation.

The follow-up committee session is attended by delegates of the Kuwaiti, Moroccan, Saudi and Syrian News Agencies on the Arab side and by delegates of AFP, AP and Reuter on the international side.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Cairo Talks Continue on Gaza-Jericho Security Issues

'Expanded' Israeli Delegation To Arrive

NC1611174593 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] The Palestinian-Israeli subcommittee, headed by Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser Dr. Nabil Sha'th and Major General Amnon Shahaq, Israel's deputy chief of staff, resumed its meetings in Cairo today. The subcommittee, which comprises four delegates from each side, decided to continue their meetings through the end of this week and to invite the heads of the other subcommittees that were formed in Taba to join the meetings.

According to diplomatic sources in Cairo, the expanded Israeli delegation is expected to arrive later today to join the subcommittee's meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

PLO Negotiator: 'Genuine Progress' Made

NC1711074293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has said that genuine progress was achieved on the second day of the Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo on Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. He said negotiations between the two sides are proceeding in the right direction according to the autonomy agreement signed in Washington. He added that there are good prospects for reaching agreement before 13 December, the date set for Israel's withdrawal.

Sources close to the negotiations said a special team will join the Israeli delegation led by Amnon Shahaq today to discuss the 14,000 Palestinian detainees in Israel.

Israeli Delegation Notes Progress

TA1711083293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Progress has been achieved over the last two days in some of the security issues raised with the Palestinians in the Cairo talks. This was said in an official statement issued by the Israeli delegation at the end of the Cairo meeting. The statement also said the discussions were conducted in a businesslike atmosphere and that the gaps on the issues of security and the transfer of authority have been narrowed down. This will make room for the continuation of the talks in the framework of the working groups.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in the talks with the Palestinians the Israeli representatives say the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will concentrate its Gaza Strip forces within Army bases, whereas the roads will be secured by Border Police forces. Political sources believe that a similar solution will be adopted for the Jericho area, although the government has still not decided whether the IDF or the police will bear the overall responsibility for security.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus reports that the heads of the working groups established during the Taba talks may meet in Cairo today.

Paris Economic Talks End; Statement Issued

TA1611210093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] The discussions of the joint Israeli-Palestinian committee on economic cooperation ended this evening in Paris with a joint statement and an agreement on the agenda for the practical discussions that will begin next week. Our correspondent in Paris Gid'on Kouts reports that the committee decided to set up three subcommittees on trade and labor, taxation and banking, and currency policies. The subcommittees will convene in Paris on 23 November. The heads of the delegations, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], will meet again on 25 November.

The joint statement says that Israel and the Palestinian entity will establish a framework for economic cooperation, based on reciprocity, equality, and fair economic relations. The two delegation heads noted that the discussions were good and fruitful.

Environment Committee Concludes Meetings in Cairo

NC1611212993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—The Environment Committee, which is a subcommittee of the multilateral

negotiations of the conference on peace in the Middle East, concluded its meetings in Cairo this evening.

The final session went three hours over the time set for it to provide opportunity for further discussions, especially with regard to a number of disputed issues, such as contamination resulting from nuclear wastes and the prominence the U.S. delegation gave to the issue of pollution in the Gulf of Aqaba.

During the final session, the conferees followed up on issues relating to preserving the environment, particularly marine pollution and other sources of pollution, such as chemical wastes, as well as exploiting the potential of each state in the region.

During the discussions, they agreed on some standards and measures to organize international and regional efforts to preserve the environment, which is the project Japan presented to the conference. They also agreed to carry out further studies to help combat pollution, prevent environmental catastrophes, and resolve the issue of oil spillage into the Gulf of Aqaba, which is bordered by four countries: Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, and Israel. This is a project that the [words indistinct] refused to address now.

The statement issued by the conference, the meetings of which continued for four days with the participation of more than 44 countries and numerous international bodies concerned about environmental issues, noted that the United States and Russia, the cosponsors of the multilateral talks, [words indistinct] the EC, and Japan, showed their willingness to fund projects they want to carry out in the region.

[Words indistinct] stated that Egypt asked that the issue of nuclear wastes be listed on the talks' agenda, but Russia, Israel, and the United States objected to it. They demanded that this subject be referred to the Arms Limitation Committee. This upset Egypt and the Arab delegations.

Saudi Arabia, the Gulf countries, and the Palestinians supported Egypt's stand in this regard and decided to refer the whole issue to the Steering Committee [words indistinct] the five committees of the conference.

On the other hand, conference circles denied reports about reaching an agreement on setting up an [word indistinct] center in Jordan, from which Israel could benefit.

The head of the Economic Department of the Foreign Ministry chaired Egypt's delegation to these meetings.

Japan Offers Funds To Curb Desertification

OW1711034293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0317 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Japan told an international conference on Middle East environmental problems Tuesday [16 November] it will contribute 530,000 dollars to a program aimed at halting desertification.

Japan made the offer at the fourth meeting of a working group on the environment, one of five working groups operating in the multilateral track of the current Middle East peace process.

The startup funds would go toward a 9 million dollar desertification control program proposed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Japan served as the chair country for the meeting, at which it was decided to hold a meeting next February in Cairo to draft a set of standardized basic principles or "codes of conduct" for regional governments to adhere to when dealing with environmental issues.

Also considered was the establishment of an environmental agency by Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories set to be self-administered under the recent accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Forty-three countries and two international organizations participated in the meeting. Syria and Lebanon skipped the session.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Extraordinary Session To Be Held 22 Nov

NC1611121293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—The extraordinary session of the Arab League will be held at the Arab League headquarters on 22 November on the permanent envoy level. The meeting will be held at the request of the Libyan al-Jamahiriyah to discuss developments in the Arab arena.

This was stated by Tal'at Hamid, the Arab League secretary general's adviser, who said the meeting will be held in accordance with Article 17, Paragraph B, of the Arab League Charter, which stipulates that an extraordinary session can be held at the request of any member state and seconded by two other countries.

Libya asked for this meeting on 19 October. Syria and Sudan seconded the request.

Iraqi Memo Details Effect of UN Embargo on Population

NC1511161993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, today sent a memorandum to the Arab League General Secretariat showing the impact of the UN economic embargo on Iraq. The memorandum also details how the health of the Iraqi people has been hurt because of the embargo, which has caused an increase in the death of children and the elderly due to a shortage of medication and food.

The memorandum noted that the continuation of this embargo and the enormous shortage in medication and food will have an even greater impact on Iraq's children and elderly and will increase the number of deaths.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni Demands Rabin Act Against Settlers

TA1511160593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Reacting to this morning's terror attack in Hebron, Faysal al-Husayni said that as always, he denounces every act of violence. He also demands that the prime minister take measures against the organized acts of vengeance perpetrated by the Jewish settlers.

[Begin al-Husayni recording, in English] As always, our position was to condemn any violence against anyone, any killings against Israelis or Palestinians, and this is our position, it didn't change. But at the same time, I would like to once again point out that whenever an individual conducts certain operations against the Israelis, we see immediately afterwards an organized campaign from the settlers who seek revenge on the Palestinians, even if they were not part of what happened. This morning it happened again—that settlers attacked Palestinians. [end recording]

Faysal al-Husayni says that Jewish settlers this morning attacked Abraham's Tomb and warns that if the Army does not find ways to protect the Palestinians, they will have to find ways to do so themselves. These remarks by Faysal al-Husayni are reported by our correspondent Jack Katzenell.

'Abd-al-Shafi Calls for Rabin-'Arafat Meeting

TA1611140693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] Gaza—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has said that implementing the articles of the Israeli-Palestinian accord is a difficult and complicated problem. This requires that summit meetings be held between Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin to implement the accord on the ground.

'Abd-al-Shafi said that the bilateral talks being conducted now will reveal in the future whether there is an opportune chance for achieving peace. He noted that the mission of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks ended as soon as the Declaration of Principles was announced.

'Abd-al-Shafi said that he was dissatisfied with the Israeli-Palestinian accord because it did not address a basic issue, namely, settlement activity. He pointed out that continued settlement activity is incompatible with the requirements of peace. Hence, the weak point in the accord. 'Abd-al-Shafi said he was doubtful whether this accord will respond to the Palestinian people's basic rights.

'Arafat on Spy Case, Taba Talks, Gaza-Jericho

PM1611145193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Nov 93 p5

[Report on interview with Palestinian President and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Ahmad Hamrush in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] The clock struck midnight as I sat with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in his small office in Tunis. [passage omitted] The talk of Tunisian society at the time was the case of 'Adnan Yasin, the Palestinian arrested by the Tunisian authorities and then, after interrogation, handed over to the PLO and charged with spying for the Mosad. News, rumors, and questions appeared at every gathering. [passage omitted]

I took my fears and suspicions to Yasir 'Arafat who said: What has been published about that matter is exaggerated. It was just one of these Israeli attempts to infiltrate the Palestinian structure. Such attempts have not stopped since the beginning of the revolution and to this day but, thank God, we are alert and bear in mind that is not one-sided. Israel knows all about the Egyptian spy planted there who was known as Ra'fat al-Hajjan and others whose names were not mentioned.

With a flash of determination and anger in his eyes, 'Arafat repeatedly said: Do not forget that throughout its march, the Palestinian revolution executed many of those who lost the honor of their conscience and that some of them reported to us all the attempts and contacts made with them, and we appreciated that and examined each case separately.

Anxious to know how he really felt, I asked Yasir 'Arafat: Do you feel reassured?

Without any hesitation, he replied: Yes, very much so.

[Hamrush] Then let me ask you about other matters. I begin with a question about the Jerusalem municipal election battle and the defeat of Teddy Kollek, the Labor Party's candidate, and victory of Olmert, the Likud candidate. Why did the Palestinians of Jerusalem not take part in the elections to prevent that negative outcome and its possible consequences?

['Arafat] The shortage of time and the pressure of events prevented that matter being given the attention it deserved. I agree with you that had there been more concentration on these elections we might have taken a different position, but the Palestinians did not participate in the elections in order not to confirm the annexation. Even some Israeli members of the Labor Party did not vote for Kollek because of his advanced age, having been in that post for about 30 years. The consequences of that result will certainly be negative, but we will face them in the future in a manner that will confirm our right to Jerusalem.

If some Israelis are drawing one red line regarding the question of Jerusalem, we have four red lines: One

Palestinian, one Arab, one Christian, and one Islamic. Furthermore, some Israeli parties and forces are proposing solutions for the Jerusalem question. Meretz in general and Mapam in particular are saying that Jerusalem should be the capital of two states, a principle in which many other Israeli peace forces believe. We also rely on the UN resolutions and the U.S. position rejecting the annexation of Jerusalem.

I asked Yasir 'Arafat about reports that 11 Likud members might visit him in Tunis, a visit that was supposed to take place last week.

'Arafat, passing me a note sent by one of his aides in the occupied territory, said: Our doors are open but, having received this note (saying that the Likud members have changed their minds about meeting with PLO officials after yesterday's trial and precautionary decision to expel them from the party if they did go to Tunis), I do not believe that they will come. They might hesitate.

At the time of the interview with Yasir 'Arafat, the Taba negotiations were suspended and Dr. Nabil Sha'th was in Cairo. Sha'th contacted 'Arafat while I was in his office. I asked Yasir 'Arafat why the negotiations were suspended and if there was an intention to terminate them as claimed in some reports.

['Arafat] The negotiations were suspended for consultation after the Israelis adopted a wrong approach—speaking of redeployment instead of withdrawal on grounds of security, when actually the presence of a UN force would maintain security. However, suspension of the negotiations for consultation does not mean that there is an intention at present to terminate the negotiations.

[Hamrush] And now, how does Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] view the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and what were the objective reasons for accepting that agreement?

['Arafat] It confirmed our people's presence on the political and geographical map, having been crossed off that map in the first and second world wars. Let us review the history. [passage omitted]

[Hamrush] How optimistic are you now?

['Arafat] Optimism is one of my weapons, and it will increase if the agreement is accurately implemented and translated on the ground. You should bear in mind the fact that that agreement is now an international agreement, not a local agreement between two parties.

(Then Abu-'Ammar surprised me with his next sentence) Do you not know that Norway was the only country excluded from implementation of the (whale protection) agreement because it contributed to the conclusion of the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement?

[Hamrush] We cannot end the interview without discussing the Palestinian and Israeli opposition to the agreement and the effect of that on the PLO leader.

['Arafat] The agreement was approved by a majority of 63 against 23. We believe in democracy and have faith in the patriotism of the Palestinian opposition, however extreme some of its factions may be, but the Israeli opposition exceeds the limit in its behavior. The acts of aggression on Palestinians by Israeli settlers are a threat to peace and security.

[Hamrush] I asked Abu-'Ammar if he thought the agreement would lead to regional peace.

['Arafat] (Interrupting) I insist on a just and comprehensive peace on all Arab fronts. That requires progress towards agreement on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, particularly as Jordan has reached agreement [with Israel] which will be announced within the next few days. We could then say that the area was beginning to enter the era of just and comprehensive peace?

[Hamrush] But how do you view Israel's attempts to establish separate trade and economic relations with some Arab states?

['Arafat] I recall that we had insisted on the participation of Jordan and Egypt in the main donors committee and refused to have just us and Israel on that committee, which also includes the United States, Canada, the EEC, EFTA, Japan, and Saudi Arabia, because we consider the presence of these two neighbors to be essential for the economic development process. That has indeed happened and now there are five Arab parties attending the meetings. They are Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Jordan, and Palestine. That gives significant dimensions to the unified economic concept of these Arab parties and at the same vitalizes the Palestinian economic process.

Any regional economic cooperation under so-called minor Marshall plans must be linked first to joint Arab agreements that would achieve just and lasting peace. Secondly, there should be concentration on Arab economic coordination.

[Hamrush] I did not wish to end my session with Yasir 'Arafat without referring to the position of the Egyptian intellectuals and politicians who had always supported the Palestinian revolution and have now taken a reserved, not to say hostile, stance on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

['Arafat] (With a glow in his eyes) I would welcome a meeting with Egyptian political forces of various trends, to have a dialogue with them. I tried to meet some of them when I was in Cairo. I believe that every objective opposition is a healthy opposition because it opens wider horizons and bridges views.

I have always been eager and sought clear relations between the Palestinian revolution and the Egyptian patriotic forces so that we could together seek closer views and benefit from mutual experiences. I wish to reaffirm here that what the Egyptian authorities headed

by President Husni Mubarak have done is a support and victory for the cause of Arab solidarity.

[Hamrush] Do you then accept the invitation of the Egyptian solidarity committee to enter into a dialogue with the political and ideological leaderships in Egypt?

['Arafat] Yes, I welcome that and look forward to it. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Opponents Say They Fired Rockets at Israel

NC1611154193 Paris AFP in English 1452 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Amman, Nov 16 (AFP)—Palestinians who broke with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat over the autonomy accord said their group fired rockets at northern Israel from Lebanon Tuesday [16 November].

A man claiming to be a member of the "Fatah Movement, Black September 13 Brigades" told AFP here that members of his organisation "fired a salvo of rockets at dawn at the settlement of Qiryat Shemona" in northern Israel.

The attack was "a response to the settlers' treatment of our people in the occupied territories," the spokesman said.

Two rockets crashed onto Israel's northern border Tuesday for the first time since July, slightly wounding two Israeli soldiers.

The Palestinian spokesman said the "Black September 13 Brigades" would "continue resisting until Israel ends its occupation of all Arab land."

The deal on limited autonomy for the Palestinians beginning in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho was signed in Washington on September 13.

Fatah's former military leader in Lebanon, Munir Maqdah, dismissed by Fatah leader and PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat for opposing the autonomy deal, announced the formation of the "Black September 13 Brigades" on October 27.

The organisation's goal was to "wreck" the deal, Maqdah said.

Meanwhile, fundamentalist pro-Iranian Hizballah guerrillas wounded two pro-Israeli militiamen and captured a dozen more Tuesday when they launched their biggest offensive on occupied south Lebanon since the accord was signed.

FRC Rejects Change of Fatah to 'Political Party'

NC1511154893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, 15 Nov (MENA)—A knowledgeable source in Fatah has stated that during its meetings in the past few days, the Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC] stressed the need for the Fatah Movement to maintain its current status [wasfahah al-hali] during the transition period in Gaza and Jericho as well as during the final stage. The Council stressed its rejection of calls made by some members to turn the movement into a political party.

The source said that Fatah will continue as a revolutionary movement to guide Palestinian action inside and outside the occupied territories. He noted that two or three members from the West Bank and Gaza Strip will join the 18-member Central Committee and another 10 members will join the 100-member Revolutionary Council.

The Palestinian source added that nine committees have grown out of the Revolutionary Council and the Central Committee to draw up studies and prepare the necessary research to define the tasks of the Fatah Movement, the Central Committee, and the Revolutionary Council during the next stage on the internal and external levels.

Fatah Military Official on Opposition to Pact

JN1711081693 Amman AL SABIL in Arabic 16-23 Nov 93 p 20

[Interview with Munir al-Maqdah, "military official of the PLO in Lebanon and Yasir 'Arafat's right-hand man for many years" in Sidon by Muslih al-Habahibah—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Habahibah] Why have you declared your opposition to the Gaza-Jericho agreement? What are the inherent dangers of this agreement?

[Al-Maqdah] Our opposition to the agreement stems from the fact that what took place was outside Palestinian forums, the decisions of the Palestine National Council, and our constant national principles. The Palestinian leadership that is composed of a working team has departed from all Palestinian constant principles. Hence our clear, unequivocal position. The so-called Israeli Gaza-Jericho plan is meant to extinguish the intifadah. It is also designed to serve as a bridge to reach all of the Arab nation. The disadvantages of the plan have begun to emerge. Take, for example, Aman al-Hindi, who supports the plan. Al-Hindi was excluded from the Taba talks under the pretext that he was a terrorist. At the same time, however, there was a man sitting at the negotiating table who has usurped our territory and planned so many assassination attempts against Palestinian officials. This means that there might come a time when all the Palestinians who support the agreement could become terrorists and be expelled. This is in addition to asking the PLO to protect the Jews or recruit them with the national guard.

Israel still covets a great deal. The Palestinian leadership has canceled everything, beginning with the charter. The Jews, on the other hand, have not changed anything. Their Knesset emblem still declares the Hebrew State

from the Nile to the Euphrates. At the same time, there are four million Palestinians in the diaspora, who have not been mentioned so far. About 90 percent of our people oppose the agreement. I am certain that the agreement will suffer an implosion. There is also the policy of liquidation, which started in the occupied territories against Fatah cadres. They [not further identified] are tirelessly seeking to transfer this policy to the Lebanese arena, after having thrown in jail many of the Palestinian cadres in Tunisia. Those who used to chant the slogans of democracy have themselves defeated it.

I declared my position on the agreement a week before its endorsement and the recognition of the Israeli enemy. This is because we think that the plan fragments the Palestinian people and territory, at a time when there is already a breach between us and the Arab people. Since the second Gulf war, the PLO has not been viewed favorably in the Arab world. This situation has persisted until things came to what they are today. I call for toppling those symbols in whatever way and for defeating this agreement. Perhaps, in time, 'Arafat will be put to the test and the Jews can make him fail the test. Afterward, the Palestinians could be deported from the occupied territories to Jordan and Lebanon, and there will be persistent efforts to set up an alternate homeland—the scheme advanced by Kissinger. Jordan will be the alternate homeland, and this is in line with the ambitions of the Jews, who are today defining the borders of the Hebrew state.

We know that Gaza and Jericho are a burden to the Jews. Rabin has repeatedly said he wishes he could go to sleep and wake up to find Gaza submerged in the sea. The Israelis have also offered Gaza to the Egyptians through unilateral withdrawal. These are, in general, the dangers as we see them.

[Al-Habahibah] As an opposition group, are you in touch with other opposition parties in Fatah and the PLO, for example, Hani al- Hasan, Shafiq al-Hut, 'Abbas Zaki?

[Al-Maqdah] We have established our own framework in the Lebanese arena within Fatah. This includes all of the Lebanese arena. After putting this framework in order, we started contacting all the opposition figures in Fatah in Tunisia, Jordan, and the occupied territories. We are tirelessly seeking to draw up our own program and restructure Fatah. The Fatah opposition figures have several views in this regard. We in Lebanon support the continuation of armed struggle in all forms. All Fatah opposition figures agree on this point. The situation of the opposition is very difficult, just like the difficult Arab and international situation. There is also coordination with the opposition in the PLO, especially that in Lebanon. In view of my former post as a PLO military official in Lebanon, I have close relations with this opposition. There is joint military action against Israeli occupation, with the participation of all Palestinian factions. We did our best to keep the opposition within the boundaries of Fatah, but to no avail. I have sent more than 1,000 letters and many delegations to Tunisia, but I received no clear reply about the political scheme. The leadership in Tunisia seems confused, having initiated a plan not knowing where it will lead to. Therefore, they have no answers to our questions. Their only concern is how to struggle to establish the future Palestinian entity.

[Al-Habahibah] Did you not take practical steps to participate with the 10 Palestinian factions which oppose the agreement to form the substitute that can lead the Palestinian people after the present leadership concluded the agreement?

[Al-Maqdah] We wish there was a substitute. The Palestinian opposition is in a difficult position in view of the present international and regional state of affairs. Our program focuses on ways we can go back underground, as when we started, with all the intelligence, military, political, and organizational means to foil this project. The 10 Palestinian factions held several meetings and we hope they will adopt a unified action program that will safeguard Palestinian unity after that the Palestinian people have been divided into opponents, supporters of the agreement and those who were surprised by it. We are in constant contact with the 10 Palestinian factions to seek reassurances for our Palestinian people. We hope they will have a clear picture, and we do not object to being part of the picture that will unite our Palestinian people.

[Al-Habahibah] When touring the camp, I did not notice any military manifestations. Even your house was not under guard. Do you not fear that the Fatah command might assassinate you, you the son of Fatah, and who knows much about assassination operations?

[Al-Maqdah] First, I would like to tell you this story. Haman once went to the Pharoh's palace. He asked the doorkeeper to tell the Pharoh that he wants to meet him. The doorkeeper went to Pharoh and Haman heard him tell the doorkeeper: Tell Haman that the Pharoh is creating several cows and sheep. Haman told him: Whom are you kidding?

We are from the same school. One cannot kill the other. They tried to kill me more than once, using all means such as car bombs, suicide operations, hand grenades, and silencers. God is the one who protects and the one who decides when man is born or when he dies and not humans. My neighbors are my guards and I depend on God and I fear no one. I was a Fatah official, and I know all its members.

[Al-Habahibah] How large is the opposition within Fatah in Lebanon?

[Al-Maqdah] There are a few voices within Fatah in Lebanon which support the agreement. So far, I have not announced that I have split from the Fatah Movement. I am still a member and continue to abide by the Fatah Movement's constants. The Fatah command is the one which left Fatah. As you see, there are no armed men in the camp. There are only those responsible for security. We are an armed people and we have an armed grouping.

within the camps. Those who supported the agreement are a handful, and they did so not because they are convinced of it but for personal gains or hypocritical reasons. The leadership in Tunis economically besieged us for eight months. It suspended assistance to our schools, kindergardens, hospitals, our martyrs families, and our fighters. We managed to stand fast in spite of this siege. Our people are generous. In spite of all the tragedies and side battles in which they involved our people, this people continued with their generosity and continue to provide the fighters with food.

[Al-Habahibah] If you reach a deadend with the command and you continue to oppose agreement, how will this opposition be financed so that it may be able to carry out the tasks you propose and which require huge sums of money?

[Al-Maqdah] We will not beg for assistance. God has asked Muslims to carry out jihad with souls and funds. We will not object to anyone giving us something for the sake of God so that we may be able to pursue our jihad and struggle to topple the agreement and remove the Israeli occupation from our sacred Palestinian land.

[Al-Habahibah] Do you now participate in operations against the Israeli occupier in southern Lebanon? If yes, why do you not announce this?

[Al-Maqdah] We are part of the national and Islamic resistance in Lebanon. Sometimes, we announce our operations, and other times we announce them in the name of the national and Islamic resistance. After the agreement, we formed battalions which we call the Black 13 September Battalions. These battalions are not only in Lebanon, they exist in all the European and Arab arenas and have their work to do.

[Al-Habahibah] Will it be part of their duties to carry out operations against the Israeli presence outside Israel like hijacking planes and attacking embassies?

[Al-Maqdah] God willing, they will do everything, even toppling the agreement and liberating Palestine.

[Al-Habahibah] Fatah has been beset by numerous internal struggles, including the 1983 Fatah uprising. There has been a wave of assassinations with the Revolutionary Council. Have you undertaken an assessment of the past, now that you have come out against the leadership?

[Al-Maqdah] One of the most important side wars we fought was with Syria over the independent Palestinian decisionmaking. Many of our Palestinian people have lost their lives in the battle for independent decisionmaking and in side wars. Having arrived at the point where we are now, we took stock of our past experience. I fought from the north to the south and took part in many battles. The assessment we made has led us to conclude that we were led by a bourgeois class defending those in the positions of power. The Palestinian cause is an Islamic one. As long as there is a single inch of our Arab territory under occupation, each Muslim is supposed to fight. In this instance, fighting is as important as prayer. What happened in the Central Council lately was that some notables were summoned from the occupied territory and then appointed members in that body. Formerly they managed to buy many votes. I myself was offered a sum of money equal to what had been offered to voters in the Central Council in return for taking a capitulationist stand.

[Al-Habahibah] Some Palestinians have called for the assassination of Yasir 'Arafat. Do you see in his death an end to a particular road? Has the assassination of Anwar al-Sadat killed Camp David?

[Al-Maqdah] ..... [ellipses as published]

[Al-Habahibah] Will you pursue such a course?

[Al-Maqdah] ..... [ellipses as published]

[Al-Habahibah] Fatah-the Revolutionary Council has long raised the slogan of opposition to the incumbent leadership of Fatah. What is the state of your relations with them?

[Al-Maqdah] We do not believe in slogans, and the Tunis leadership knows as much. The Hammam al-Shatt prison houses a good many struggler detainees. Only a short while back, there was an attempt on the life of Faysal al-Husayni, and afterward Yasir 'Arafat himself was targeted in the fifth such attempt. 'Arafat has survived the five attempts on his life, but in the end he will be killed.

[Al-Habahibah] A number of Fatah leaders have been assassinated in Gaza, with the PLO leadership pointing accusing fingers at opponents of the accord with Israel. Can you update us on this matter?

[Al-Maqdah] Those who have been assassinated in the occupied territory were not, strictly speaking, rejectionists. They merely raised questions about certain flaws in the accord and demanded an explanation of the structure of the self-rule accord. They were among those who had resisted occupation for many years. Their mere asking questions about some points constituted a good enough reason to eliminate them just as others were arrested in Tunis on the same grounds.

The unified command in the occupied territory has over many years shown itself to be stronger than the one overseas, evincing political, military, and security shrewdness. I wonder how the leadership in the diaspora, when it returns, will be able to rule over the leadership in the field. It was for this reason that leaders in the occupied land are being liquidated. We went through the same experience back in 1982 when leaders in the field and under occupation were liquidated soon after the Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon. A case in point was Abu-Muhammad Khalifah, who worked in the secretariat. Others were liquidated after the end of the occupation. What is happening in the occupied land, therefore, fits a pattern.

[Al-Habahibah] Since you have all this information about the leadership's acts, why did you declare your opposition just recently on the eve of the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord?

[Al-Maqdah] My stand has been clear and frank since the Madrid conference. I was an opponent within Fatah on many issues. I was against all the wars waged by Fatah after 1982. I also did not take part in some of these wars. On 1 July 1993, there was an agreement to hand over all heavy and light weapons to the Lebanese Government. I was the only one who rejected this. I kept all my weapons and defended the camps bravely until a cease-fire was reached with the Lebanese Army. That was a step in a plan to end Fatah armed presence in Lebanon.

It is not only now that I announce my opposition. I declared my stand very clearly at a press conference at the outset of the Madrid conference. When I acted within the Palestinian framework, the situation was not clear. We felt that a group around 'Arafat were dragging us into side battles. However, when masks were removed everything became clear.

[Al-Habahibah] A religious touch has recently appeared in your press interviews and moves. Is this new, or have you been a religious man for a long time?

[Al-Maqdah] Praise be to God, who showed us the right path a long time ago. The Fatah Movement started in a mosque on 1 January 1965. Fatah's first communique says: "Out of our belief in God and relying on Him." Then, the Fatah Movement was launched and the first bullet was fired. Fatah is a jihad movement, but all the jihad symbols were martyred, and so it began to change to its present status.

[Al-Habahibah] By talking about the martyrdom of the jihad symbols in the Fatah Movement, can we say that Col. Munir al-Maqdah is affiliated with the Fatah religious current led by Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]?

[Al-Maqdah] In 1973, I worked with martyr Abu-Jihad and I was close to him. Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] was loyal to Fatah although he was not that religious. Abu-Iyad always worked for Palestine. Abu-Jihad was a supporter of the world—not only the Palestinian—Islamic forces; he was a mujahid. He was the force that maintained a balance between us and the leadership when there were any differences. After his martyrdom, we expected everything. I have been working in Fatah from the beginning. Many Islamic Palestinian factions are not open to others. Anyone who shares their views is considered a Muslim, and anyone who does not share their views violates Islam. We do not say that the Islamists are the alternative to the PLO. Our Islam needs a leader. There are many, many Islamist mujahidin.

[Al-Habahibah] Do you proceed in your objection to the Gaza-Jerich accord from a religious premise?

[Al-Maqdah] Removal of the Hebrew state is a Koranic inevitability. We cannot deny what is in the Koran. In religious and national terms, an agreement is prohibited. Abu-'Aridah [not further identified] who formed the national guard in Sidon in 1982 was smarter than this leadership. If we consider this agreement a good one, then he was 10 years ahead of them. What will you say to the families of the agents whom we liquidated over the years? Will 'Arafat issue a statement in which he apologizes for Mrs. al-Sadat and says that her husband and his likes were right?

[Al-Habahibah] Let us go back to Abu-Jihad. There were many questions raised about his assassinaion, and the same goes for the assassination of Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid]. Do you have anything to say?

[Al-Maqdah] I have no information about the assassination of martyr Abu-Jihad. But, with respect to martyrs Abu-Iyad and Abu-al- Hawl, at the time we were experiencing assassinations and counter assassinations with the Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC] over a period of one year. The FRC has been liquidating Palestinian leaders since 1973. These include Sa'id Hamami, 'Isam al-Sartawi and scores of other martyrs. In the last year of my waging the battle of assassinations and counter assassinations with the FRC, I used to assassinate two of theirs for the assassination of every one of ours. While this was taking place, I was surprised to see that funds were withhheld from us and from them. Thus, we and the FRC suspended our operations without any prior agreement. How do you explain this? I said that the master is one, and I accused the FRC of being 'Arafatists. They succeeded to reach Abu-Iyad and Abu-al- Hawl and they could have reached 'Arafat and many other Palestinian leaders. They tried various means to assassinate me. At one time, I had more than 300 FRC members as prisoners. This is the status of the grouping called the FRC. Who is responsible for this grouping? Is it Lubrani, 'Arafat, or the Americans? As I previously said, we have the same master.

[Al-Habahibah] You were recently subjected to an assassination attempt. Which party was behind this, after you have arrested those who carried it out?

[Al-Maqdah] Investigation of them has shown that they were tasked with carrying out the assassination by a Palestinian leader in Tunis. I released them because I am more interested in the party which tasked them to do this. The officer who led this operation is now in his house.

[Al-Habahibah] Do you believe that some of those who oppose the agreement within Fatah are opponents in agreement with the PLO command to form the future opposition that is needed to quell the real opponents under various pretexts?

[Al-Habahibah] Yes, there are many voices which say they are against the agreement, but which will be the first to join the police force that is intended to be formed, like

the many Lebanese voices which announce they are against resettlement but which seek to naturalize thousands of Palestinians.

[Al-Habahibah] If the Palestinian police force that will be deployed, in addition to the 3,000 security elements—some of which have been deployed in Gaza and Jericho, try to quell and silence the opponents to the agreement, what will be your reply?

[Al-Maqdah] The people are stronger than this police force. We hope this year will end peacefully. 'Arafat has appeased our people by saying he will rule Gaza and Jericho as he did Lebanon. 'Arafat ruled Lebanon with blood and thousands of martyrs. We repeat our wish that this year will end peacefully and that the Palestinian police force will not become the guards of a security belt similar to the one that exists in southern Lebanon.

The Palestinian police force might go to the streets. But, our people are a militant and generous people, and will overcome this scheme without intra-Palestinian fighting. A Palestinian who carried weapons under the occupation which failed to take it from him, how can the Palestinian guard divest him of this weapon?

Those who signed the agreement will face a difficult stage. I am sure that the agreement will explode from within.

[Al-Habahibah] The PLO command replaced you with a new command. How did you tackle this new command, and are there signs that armed confrontation will take place with it?

[Al-Maqdah] The only weapons Fatah possesses are the weapons that I have, and they are under my control. The new command they have appointed are my friends. Some of them have rejected the agreement and others are waiting. If they want to carry out their decision, they are free to do so. I will leave them to the people. The people carried out their role and silenced these voices because 90 percent of our people in the camps oppose the agreement.

Al-Shabibah Leaflet Calls For Continuing Intifadah

TA1711110293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] The Fatah affiliated al-Shabibah youth movement has distributed a leaflet in Ramallah calling for the continuation of the intifadah. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the leaflet was disseminated after the killing of the Palestinian youth Rami al-Rizali by soldiers' gunfire in Ramallah yesterday. Military sources are investigating whether a Fatah faction is really responsible for circulating the leaflet. In the leaflet the al-Shabibah organization says its members have adhered to the decision of the leadership to put an end to acts of violence, because it believed the Israeli side would do the same. Al-Shabibah says that as long as the Israeli side does not put an end to its acts of violence, its own members will continue with the revolution. Our correspondent reports that calm is prevailing in Ramallah.

Islamic Jihad Leader Assails Israeli-PLO Accord

TA1611161193 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 12 Nov 93 pp 3, 7

[By Ibrahim 'Abd-al-'Aziz and Muhammad al-'Ajlah]

[Excerpts] Gaza—Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, general secretary of the Islmaic Jihad in Palestine has said that the Palestinian-Israel agreement was the last nail in the coffin of Arab unity and solidarity, which had been greatly weakened in recent years. He added that this agreement is not only over Gaza and Jericho but over the entire region and seeks to create a new Middle East in which Israel will be the central and dominating part. Thus, those who signed the agreement have opened the way before Israel to all the Islamic homeland from Morocco to Indonesia. This came in an exclusive statement by Dr. al-Shaqaqi to AL-NAHAR

Replying to a question about the Islamic Jihad's perspective of the agreement, Dr. al-Shaqaqi said: This plan means setting up a self-governing authority in the Gaza Strip and the town of Jericho in return for recognition of Israel's existence as a secure and recognized state having sovereignty over more than 80 percent of the area of Palestine; in return for the redeployment—not withdrawal—of the Israeli Army after nine months from the West Bank; in return for Israeli control over all the borders and their crossing points; in return for maintaining the settlements in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and the Israeli Army's protection of the settlements and settlers; and in return for postponing the issue of Jerusalem.

Thus, the agreement talks about limited self-rule over 2 percent of the area of Palestine—Gaza and Jericho—and the transfer of some powers over 15 percent of the area of Palestine. The rest will remain under the control of Israel, which will maintain the right of sovereignty for at least five years. Then negotiations, with no time frame, will begin over a final and vague future.

Dr. al-Shaqaqi added: Hence, we categorically reject the agreement. It does not grant the Palestinians any of their rights. We have to continue struggling until we achieve independence, not reinforce the occupation, as the Gaza-Jericho agreement does. [passage omitted]

On the Islamic Jihad's relationship with the future Palestinian authority, Dr. al-Shaqaqi said: Any agreement with Israel does not concern us at all. We will keep on as if nothing has taken place, but our battle will not be with any part of our people.

Dr. al-Shaqaqi pointed out that Islamic Jihad will reject any political relations or arrangements with the self-governing authority, while avoiding any clashes with any Palestinian party.

On the steps which Islamic Jihad intends to take along with the other opposition factions, Dr. al-Shaqaqi said: In our view, the priorities of the stage are challenging the legality of this agreement and its producers, affirming its invalidity, and working to foil it. This specifically calls for uniting the opposition's ranks, affirming the unity of the people and land, and working seriously to keep the intifadah going.

Replying to a question about the agreement's future, Dr. al-Shaqaqi said: This agreement is another title for the continuation of the occupation. It is not a political solution to the problem, because it cannot possibly satisfy or assure one Palestinian. The agreement will not bring about any real change in Palestinian territory. From this aspect, it has no value. [passage omitted]

PFLP Official Calls Gaza-Jericho 'Submission'

JN1211115493 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Nov 93 p 2

[Report by Hadi Mahmud]

[Text] Baghdad—Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has said it would be unfair to call the Gaza-Jericho agreement a "Palestinian-Israeli" agreement because the Palestinian people should not be placed in a position, which they have not chosen, to serve as a bridge to allow the Zionists to cross to the Arab nation.

In an interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH, Abu-'Ali Mustafa said: This is not a peace agreement, but an agreement of submission by a capitulationist Palestinian party to the Israeli and U.S. dictates.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa stressed that the agreement has opened the door for a war on the cultural front, a war between a nation aspiring for unity and freedom on the one hand, and an imperialist-supported Zionist scheme, on the other; as well as a war of suspect political concepts which have been there offer scores of years, and which seek to allow the racist Zionism to expand at the expense of this nation.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa said the mutual recognition document is even more dangerous than the agreement itself. The first article in that document places the Zionist element as an alternative to the pan-Arab concept and annuls 100-year old concepts when it speaks of "Israel's right to exists."

Asked why the PFLP representative did not attend the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and the PLO Central Council, Abu-'Ali Mustafa said: We will not participate in a government that does not represent the ambitions of our Palestinian people. The call to convene these meetings was superficial, and there is no point in attending such meetings any more.

Hamas Leader Denies Running in Self-Rule Elections

JN1411151393 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 14 Nov (SANA)—Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, leader of the Hamas Movement, who is detained in enemy jails in occupied Palestine, has denied he agreed to run in the administrative self-rule elections. He expressed his rejection of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

In an interview with Shaykh Yasin by Israeli Knesset member Talab al-Sani', whose version was written by Yasin and obtained by the newspaper TISHRIN, Shaykh Yasin said this agreement ignored basic issues, such as occupied Jerusalem, the Israeli settlements, and the repatriation of refugees. He pointed out that no president or generation has the right to give up on the Palestine issue since it is a cause for all generations.

Shaykh Yasin demanded full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem, as well as the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He said the intifadah will continue against occupation.

Shaykh Yasin refused to meet with 'Arafat and asked that he be cited as telling 'Arafat: Fear God regarding your people and homeland. Inability to marry is no excuse to commit adultery.

Arrested 'Arafat Aide Says Framed by Wife's Lovers

PM1611122993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Nov 93 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat's Radio Operation Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: I Request a Commission of Inquiry To Uncover the Complications Which Led to My Arrest"]

[Text] Algiers, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Mahmud Sadiq, Yasir 'Arafat's radio operation official and the PLO member who was recently arrested and linked by some Palestinian sources to the case of 'Adnan Yasin, who is accused of spying for Mosad, has called for the formation of a commission of inquiry to uncover the complications which led to his arrest and to punish those responsible.

Sadiq, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from a secret place in the Algerian capital, said that an influential Palestinian party made up these charges against him for purely selfish and personal reasons.

Sadiq gave AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT details of the facts related to what he called his case. He said that he had suspected his wife, Maria Mikolas Yosakis, who is of Hungarian origin, of establishing suspect relations with a number of individuals with whom he had excellent links and who used to visit his home regularly.

Sadiq added that his wife, suspecting that her activities had been discovered, asked him for a divorce and then returned to Budapest on the pretext of checking on her sick father, and from there she went to Paris, where she was met by one of the members of her "love nest" with whom she had a special relationship.

Maria then returned to Budapest and remained there for a while. In the meantime, Sadiq contacted her and told her that he had discovered the nature of her visit to Paris and what she did there.

Sadiq said that the result was that the wife contacted members of the "nest" and told them that her husband had found out the whole truth and she asked them to act to save the situation.

Sadiq added that members of the "nest" soon followed his wife's instructions and acted in their own way. They first accused him of immorality and, using their influence, were able to get an order for his arrest and detention in the PLO's Hammam al-Shatt prison. Then later, they trumped up charges of espionage and links with Mosad to further ruin his reputation and finish him off completely.

Sadiq says that during the period he was detained in Hammam al-Shatt prison, which began on Saturday 30 October, no open charges were made against him. The direct reason for this is not known. All he was told was that "we need you for a certain matter in Hammam al-Shatt." They threw him in prison, and he remained there until his brother Riyad, a military security colonel, heard about it and visited him in prison to find out the truth. By that time Mahmud was fully convinced that the members of "his wife's love nest" were behind what happened. So he gave his brother all the details.

The matter remained pending for six days until his brother Riyad managed to get an order for his release provided he left Tunis for Algeria.

Sadiq said that in view of this sensational case and the possibility that other such cases occurred frequently before and might occur in the future resulting in innocent people becoming victims of the personal whims of influential people, he was calling for a commission of inquiry to uncover all the implications of the case, punish those responsible, and rehabilitate him. He added that he is not doing this just for himself but to ensure that the Palestinian state starts off on sound basis away from grudges and vendettas.

Israeli Purchase of U.S. Arms Inconsistent With Peace

TA1611184393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 Nov 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Rabin's Visit and the U.S. Role"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to the United States, the talks that he held yesterday with U.S. President Bill Clinton and with a number of U.S. officials, come at a time when the peace process begins a new stage with signs of a breakthrough on the various negotiating tracks. Not surprisingly the peace process is a major item on Rabin's agenda during talks in Washington, especially given the problems impeding progress on the Syrian-Israeli track.

On the other hand, reports by news agencies and the Israeli media affirm that this visit will not be confined only to discussing the peace process. One of its main objectives is discussion of bilateral relations in a bid to enhance those relations. Another objective is the acquisition of sophisticated weaponry from the U.S. including fighter planes which the United States has still not provided to any other country in the world. Israel is also demanding U.S. "security guarantees" under the slogan of "the risks and dangers that Israel assumed when it displayed a readiness to participate in the peace process."

What is surprising is that at a time when the United States is raising the slogan of working toward arms reduction, and at a time when the Israeli Government is engaged in peace talks with the Arab side, Israel is demanding to obtain the most modern U.S. weapons or is trying to exploit the progress achieved in the peace process to obtain more U.S. aid and pledges. All this while the peace process is still in its initial stages and while Israel keeps adhering to positions, which if they continue to be pursued will constitute real obstacles to reaching a comprehensive and just peace. Among those positions is Israel's refusal to implement the land-for-peace principle, as stipulated by Resolutions 242 and 338.

At a time when the United States is playing the role of the major sponsor of the peace process in the Middle East, it should endeavor to enhance the security of the entire region and not continue with the previous traditional U.S. policy that offered Israel every assistance and ignored the security, problems, and rights of the others.

We believe that enhancement of bilateral Israeli-U.S. relations should not be at the expense of the Arab parties participating in the peace process, nor at the expense of the tendency toward peace. Continued arms procurement is totally inconsistent with the intentions of peacemaking.

A balanced U.S. position that takes into account the interests of all the parties in this region in terms of security, stability, and economic prosperity, and which seeks to promote a comprehensive peace on the basis of international resolutions is the only position that conforms with the role of the peace process sponsor. Otherwise, the credibility of the U.S. role in this process will be subjected to further skepticism.

'Arafat Receives Norwegian Foreign Minister

LD1611203093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive

Committee, received Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst and the accompanying delegation yesterday evening.

During the meeting they comprehensively reviewed the development of the Arab-Israeli peace process and also the preliminary results of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations which followed the signing of the agreement in Washington on 13 September and the difficulties obstructing implementation of the agreement as a result of Israel's intransigence.

The brother president, Abu-Ammar, emphasized the need to preserve 13 December as the date for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region and for the Palestinian side to take over complete authority in these territories during the transitional period in addition to the agreed powers in the rest of the West Bank. He emphasized the need for the Israeli side to adhere to the text and spirit of the agreement.

During the meeting they also reviewed the current economic situation in the Palestinian national authority's territories, the infrastructure of which has been totally destroyed. They emphasized the need to speed up the agreement on drawing up comprehensive economic bases and projects and commencing them.

Brother Abu-Ammar informed the Norwegian minister about the formation of the Economic Council, which was announced recently and which will take over the economic development projects in the occupied territories.

During the meeting, they also reviewed the resolutions of the commission of the aid donor countries, which met recently in Paris and which is currently chaired by the Norwegian minister.

The meeting was attended by brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], deputy chairman of the Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction and chairman of the PLO Political Department; brother Yasir Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee; brother Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee; and brothers Hayil al-Fahhum and Dr Samin Sallam.

Hamas, Norwegian Envoy Meet

NC1611202693 Paris AFP in English 1954 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Amman, Nov 16 (AFP)—Members of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, which is opposed to the Palestinian autonomy deal signed by the PLO and Israel, held talks with a Norwegian envoy here Tuesday [16 November], a Hamas official said.

Hamas spokesman in Jordan Muhammad Nazzal, who attended the talks, said the Hamas delegation met Norwegian Ambassador to Cairo Per J. Haugestad, and they discussed the accord reached in secret talks between the PLO and Israel in Oslo.

Haugestad showed "understanding" of the Islamic fundamentalist movement's opposition to the accord, signed in Washington September 13, but expressed the hope that Hamas would engage only in "peaceful" opposition, Nazzal said.

Hamas vowed to "continue its struggle until the Israeli occupation ends."

Nazzal added that Hamas was "in contact with other European states," but did not elaborate.

In Tunis Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasir 'Arafat held talks late Monday with Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, who brokered the deal between the PLO and Israel.

The official Palestinian news agency WAFA said the talks at the PLO's headquarters focussed on the work of the committee charged with coordinating financial support for Palestinian autonomy, which is headed by Holst.

'Arafat and Holst stressed the "urgent need" for an agreement to launch integrated economic projects in the territories coming under the Palestine National Authority—the interim administration for the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

The talks also dealt with the composition of the 14-member Palestinian Economic Development and Reconstruction Council (PEDRA), set up by Arafat on November 4 to coordinate international aid for the occupied territories.

Arafat stressed the need for Israel to keep to the December 13 deadline for starting a military withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The overall Arab-Israeli peace process was also discussed at the meeting.

Turkey Grants Autonomy Aid for Gaza Strip, Jericho

NC1511221793 Paris AFP in English 1435 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 15 (AFP)—Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin announced Monday [15 November] that Ankara would give the Palestinians two million dollars for autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

"We hope this contribution will aid the peace process," he told a press conference after talks with a Palestinian delegation led by Faysal al-Husayni.

The minister attended noon prayers at the al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam.

Cetin, the first Turkish foreign minister to visit Israel, met Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on Sunday and signed economic and cultural accords.

He was due to fly home later Monday.

PRC President Promises Support in Message to 'Arafat

LD1411112393 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee, today received a message of congratulations from PRC President Jiang Zemin on the fifth anniversary of the declaration of the state of Palestine.

In his message, the Chinese president expresses his pleasure at the occasion which coincides with the signing of the agreement on the declaration of principles and mutual recognition [between the PLO and Israel] which, in turn, is considered as an historical breakthrough. He calls for every effort to be made to bring the agreement to the stage of implementation in order to give impetus to the peace process and achieve further and continued progress.

He reaffirms the everlasting support of his country's government and people for the just struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights. Jiang points out that his country will continue to offer whatever support and assistance it could to our people until that noble objective has been firmly established and the homeland reconstructed.

South African Minister Holds 'Unscheduled' Talks

NC1711072093 Paris AFP in English 0036 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Tunis, Nov 17 (AFP)—South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha held an unscheduled meeting here Tuesday [16 November] with the PLO's second-in-command Faruq Qaddumi, Botha announced at the end of a two-day visit to Tunisia.

The meeting with Qaddumi, head of the PLO central committee's foreign affairs department, was arranged by the Tunisian government, Botha said during a news conference at the Tunis-Carthage airport, where he was accompanied by Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia.

"(Qaddumi) informed me of the latest developments in the Middle East and expressed the hope that we in South Africa would succeed in curbing the violence and that elections would take place on April 27 next year as envisaged," Botha said.

"I, on my part, congratulated the PLO on the agreement recently reached with the Israeli government, and I expressed the hope that the process leading toward the satisfaction of the Palestinian people's aspirations would be concluded successfully," he added.

He warned, however, against "the radicals in the Middle East who, like in South Africa, will try to scuttle the peace process."

Botha was also received Tuesday by Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, before holding a second working lunch meeting with Ben Yahia.

The Tunisian foreign minister said the opening of "bureaus of interests" in each country was "a new beginning."

"We mean business," he said. "We will do all we can to enhance our relations." [passage omitted]

Qatar Announces Direct Dialing to Territories

TA1411202893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] The Qatari telephone company has announced the opening of direct dialing to the territories. The company director said the move is designed to facilitate communication between Palestinian residents of Qatar and their families in the territories.

Holding Company To Operate in West Bank, Gaza

JN1711085993 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 15 Nov 93 P 1

[Text] AL-ASWAQ learned that the PLO has recently approved the setting up of $100 million holding company that will operate in the contracting and investments fields in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Knowledgeable sources said the company has actually been established following the personal approval of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

The partners, who are rich Palestinian businessmen, paid equal shares of $25 million each. These businessmen are 'Abd-al-Majid Shuman, Subayh al-Masri, Sa'id Khuri, and 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Qattan.

The company will operate in several fields but with initial emphasis on construction contracts, the financial sector, and food products.

Radio, Television To Begin Test Transmission in '94

NC1411164293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—The Palestinian radio and television will begin experimental transmission at the beginning of next year. A Palestinian broadcasting authority has been established and is currently working in this direction. The experimental transmission will occur at the same time as the arrival of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in the Jericho area in the coming few months.

Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, member of the Palestinian delegation taking part in the Palestinian-Israeli symposium and the man supervising the preparations for this project, said this is the first project of its kind in the history of the Palestinian people and constitutes part of

the Palestinian infrastructure. It is essential for the new national information policy.

Abu-'Ayyash told MENA that Palestinian President 'Arafat asked him several months ago, before the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed in Washington on 13 September, to prepare the media structure, which involves preparing field studies and training the necessary technical personnel for the project.

Abu-'Ayyash said that the EC offered to finance the project. The EC countries promised to donate two million ECU, or $2.6 million, for this purpose. He added that the French second channel will provide the necessary equipment for the television station. The French also promised to donate 18 million francs. A protocol on this was signed during Palestinian President 'Arafat's recent visit to France.

He added that a memorandum was sent to the United Kingdom regarding its contribution to the establishment of the radio station. He noted that the British have begun supplying the studio equipment.

He said that the television station will be set up in the Ramallah area, in the West Bank, on 15 December, for purely technical reasons. He added that in the first stage of operation, the transmission will cover the areas of Gaza, Jericho, and the central West Bank—that is, Ramallah and Jerusalem. He expressed the hope that it would provide quality service in close cooperation with Arab regional stations.

Abu-'Ayyash said that there are three main problems facing the establishment of the Palestinian radio station. One is the problem of airwaves, or frequency.

We have submitted a request to the international organization in Geneva to allocate us a frequency. We have to coordinate with the Israeli side. The Israelis have not yet given serious consideration to that issue in the Taba talks, although the right of the Palestinians to have their own telecommunications service [al-ittisalat al-silkiyah wa al-lasilkiyah] has been discussed, Abu 'Ayyash said.

Abu-'Ayyash expressed the view that Israel cannot object to that frequency, particularly since the Palestinians had a frequency that they used prior to 1967 in Ramallah.

Concerning the problem of finance, Abu-'Ayyash said that most of it has been resolved through contributions from the EC, France, and the United Kingdom. Other countries will probably also make contributions in the future, he said. The Palestinian official noted, however, that the operational budget still represents a problem.

Abu-'Ayyash expressed hope that the Arab Gulf countries would make their own contributions in this regard, meeting the station's needs of approximately $30 million.

Abu-'Ayyash pointed out that Palestinian personnel will receive training courses in both Egypt and Jordan.

Algeria

Special Court Passes 37 Death Sentences

LD1711100393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] In Medea yesterday, the special judicial court of the capital Algiers passed 37 death sentences, including 30 in absentia, on members of an organization which used to be active in Laghouat Province.

The 110 members are charged with forming an armed group, printing and publishing inciting documents, creating a criminal group, destroying and sabotaging public property, collecting donations without a license, and embezzling public funds.

During this trial, which began last Saturday, other sentences were passed on 23 suspects, ranging between life imprisonment and three-year prison sentences.

Prosecutor Seeks Death Sentences for 13 Defendants

LD1611145193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] In his speech before the special court, the public prosecutor today requested 13 death sentences, including five for defendants present in the court, against those accused of carrying out the attack on Bouzrina Street in La Casbah in January 1992, which left six policemen dead.

The trial of this group started two days ago before Algiers' special court. The court hearing ended yesterday. The prosecutor also requested life sentences for three defendants, other sentences of imprisonment ranging from three to 20 years and the acquittal of another seven.

The defense will begin its case this afternoon. This case involves 47 defendants, among them 10 on the run.

FIS Refuses Dialogue With Authorities

LD1611144193 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] will not engage in any form of dialogue with the Algerian authorities, according to a communique sent to news agencies yesterday. [passage omitted]

Last night, the Algerian Army and police launched an extensive search operation in the Islamic district of (Oued Koreiche) near the Ministry of Defense. As yet, we do not know how many people were arrested.

FLN Leader on Army Role, Readiness for Dialogue

LD1711104593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] In a recent statement, Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front [FLN], said that the national people's army has sufficient experience and information to enable it to make the best decisions in the service of the country after the tenure of the HCE [Higher State Council] comes to an end. Nabila Khreifia reports:

[Khreifia] Abdelhamid Mehri stated in an interview published by the weekly LA NATION that his party does not stipulate the departure of the HCE before the establishment of a legitimate authority in the country. He added that the national people's army has all the necessary information and experience to allow it to take a stance in favor of the country at the end of the HCE's tenure.

He pointed out that the issue of organizing a presidential referendum and legislative elections could form one of the consultation points between the dialogue partners.

After denying that he had secretly met the leaders of the dissolved FIS [Islamic Salvation front] abroad, Mr. Mehri pointed out that the leaders of this dissolved political organization have for a year demonstrated their readiness for a dialogue.

TV Chief Interviewed on Programming

LD1611122593 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Interview with Director General of Algerian Television Abdou Benziane by correspondent Michel Amarget; from the "Afrique Midi" program—recorded]

[Text] The guest of Afrique Midi today is Director General of Algerian Television Abdou Benziane. He previously held this post when Ghozali was prime minister and is now returning in a very difficult situation. Together with several journalists and intellectuals, his predecessor was assassinated by Muslim fundamentalists some weeks ago. Benziane is known for his knowledge of television and cinema and for his hostility toward Muslim fundamentalism.

Michel Amarget first asked him what kind of television he would like to produce:

[Benziane] Since this is a state-owned channel I try to produce television for the public. I try to back up or, if possible, to encourage, even to precede, pluralism, freedom of expression, I try to favor artistic creation and to increase overall output. In all, I try to resist competition from the French TV channels, which can be watched in Algeria thanks to satellite dishes.

[Amarget] What is the state of Algerian TV today?

[Benziane] I would say that it reflects the situation in the country, namely, it is somehow confused, mixed up, it is a mixture of all styles, some basic professional reflexes are being lost and so on. Since television does not live in an ivory tower, since it is not a separate body living on a desert island, it suffers all the consequences of real life, of what is happening in the streets. This is the condition in which I found it, it is in the same condition as the country, which must be gradually put back on its feet.

[Amarget] What are the resources of Algerian television today?

[Benziane] I believe that we should not overstress the lack of resources, I would not say that we have the means of TF1 or Canal [French private TV channels] but let me say that the state authorities gave me assurances that I would be given the necessary resources to acquire the programs and equipment needed.

[Amarget] Do you believe that TV productions are well developed and may still develop in Algeria today?

[Benziane] No, they are not well developed today—let us not forget that Algeria belongs to the poor or developing countries, cultural creation never reached a summit, I mean mostly in volume. [sentence as heard] Things got worse after the crisis started, this deep and very complex crisis affecting life and actors from all walks of life. So, I would say that culture is doubly hit: First because it evolves in a country that does not have all the resources, and second because it does so in a country where this political crisis, this violence and this terrorism are leading the rest.

[Amarget] What do you want to develop most in television?

[Benziane] I would naturally prefer to develop nationally produced works of fiction, to develop news programs, to develop the coverage of major events and naturally great programs that attract many viewers, be they light entertainment, political programs, feature programs, and so on.

[Amarget] In your opinion, what do people expect most from Algerian television today?

[Benziane] Well, the situation is such in Algeria today that Algerians expect everything from television. I mean that television is over-valued, it is over-politicized, almost magical functions are attributed to it, I mean that people are expecting almost everything from television as if it were the Messiah. However, I believe that for our part we must have an educational role, that is to say, this is only television, not reality.

[Amarget] Yet, as you know, pictures are the catalyst for extremely diverse and powerful issues, which may have an impact on social life.

[Benziane] Well, I have great reservations concerning the proposition that the power of pictures, of television is too great. I belong to those who say that one should not exaggerate, reality is more powerful, daily reality is more powerful, because the picture given by television is only an electronic one. To prove this you only need ask people to remember how many news bulletins were broadcast two days earlier.

[Amarget] Are you under such pressure in Algeria today that you cannot independently fully manage those programs that you want to show?

[Benziane] No. Pressures exist, they exist in all television throughout the world, but perhaps in our country these pressures are more heavy-handed, more acute, thanks to the social, political, and economic situation. Pressures exist, one should not lie, tell tales. Pressures exist, they come from all sides because this is a consequence of the state of society, which is both searching for equilibrium and stability in the balance of power. There are also struggles to obtain a position of strength for X or Y, so television is somewhere in the middle, but we are resisting.

[Amarget] In your opinion, what is the greatest danger?

[Benziane] The greatest danger for the country is this violence, this terrorism which I believe is useless, does not bring together opinions or dialogue among Algerians.

South African Delegation's Visit Reported

LD1711114193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] A Foreign Affairs Ministry statement yesterday evening said that a South African delegation headed by the director general of the Africa department has visited Algeria.

The visit came in the wake of a similar visit paid by an Algerian delegation to Pretoria last October. That visit was followed by an announcement of the official normalization of relations between the two countries and the decision to open diplomatic missions in the two countries.

Bilateral relations between Algeria and South Africa, the statement added, formed an important subject during these talks, in particular the ways and means of establishing a framework for cooperation in the spheres of maritime and air transport, energy, and mines.

Egypt

Report Questions Government Handling of U.S. Grant

NC1511200693 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Nov 93 pp 1, 9

[Report by 'Abd-al-Fattah Fayid]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has obtained important information indicating that four billion Egyptian pounds [$1.3 billion] in U.S. aid are channeled to Egyptian individuals and companies with special ties with the United States. The Egyptian Government has no control over these funds or their distribution. The funds are made available to Egypt

under an agreement called: "Agreement on a Grant Concerning Commodity Cooperation Between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the United States of America."

Well-informed sources say that the funds are channeled to individuals known by name as well as the owners of a number of known companies. Those beneficiaries have not changed since the agreement went into effect in 1986.

The same sources state that the People's Assembly will give its "rubber stamp" to the agreement in its upcoming sessions, as has happened during the past three parliamentary terms. The government has so far failed to provide the Assembly with any details concerning the way in which the funds are spent.

A responsible source at the International Cooperation Ministry says that the Egyptian Central Bank is, in theory, the body responsible for receiving and dispensing the grant to "small investors." In fact, however, the government does not know anything about the way the grant is being spent, does not interfere in its distribution among the banks, nor does it supervise the way the banks channel these funds to the final beneficiaries.

The sources point out that these funds do not reach small investors, as originally planned, but end up in the hands of millionaires or billionaires, including major car dealers posing as small investors.

The International Cooperation Ministry has found out that the names of the beneficiaries over the past few years have not changed. This is particularly true with regard to the distribution of the funds allocated to the purchase of certain commodities such as corn and soya beans.

The same sources add that the government refused to present a list of the names of those who receive these funds to the People's Assembly during the past three sessions. The People's Assembly simply gave its automatic authorization of the expenditures involved.

Minister Reacts to Report on Commissions in U.S. Arms Sales

NC1411160493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—Kamal al-Shadhili, minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs, has said that commissions in the arms field, which were reported in a recent U.S. newspaper, are related to cooperation between some American firms and individuals, and absolutely not to the Armed Forces or any state official.

The state minister, speaking at the People's Assembly session today, was giving the government's first reply to a question by the People's Assembly in its new term. The question was posed by independent Deputy Muhammad Ghanim.

Al-Shadhili explained that American aid to Egypt in the field of armaments is under the supervision and revision of the U.S. Defense Department, which, he said, made no observations about the soundness of spending. He said that the aid agreement generally states that no commissions can be paid under any circumstances.

He said the aid is provided to Egypt in the form of material assistance, not cash. In the state's eagerness to safeguard public funds and not to slander any individual or official, he said, an agreement on the exchange of information and documents that may contain incriminating information was signed with the Americans in September.

[Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic on 9 November 1993, publishes on its front page an approximately 800-word report citing an article in the 5 November issue of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL on commissions paid by American firms in U.S. arms sales to Egypt. AL-SHA'B, before summarizing the U.S. paper's article, demands a comment from the Egyptian Government. It says: "In view of the seriousness of this information, now openly published in the United States, we demand that the Egyptian Government swiftly react to the serious accusations so that we can prove our innocence and safeguard the reputation of the country and of Egyptian firms cooperating with the Armed Forces."

[AL-SHA'B adds: "Silence is no longer possible. It is not right for the American authorities to investigate issues related to Egyptians while we remain silent. We must also conduct an enquiry here in Egypt to answer the allegations or to confirm irregularities and punish their perpetrators. This way, we prove the seriousness of the government and its adherence to the law."

[The paper adds: "We are demanding that the Egyptian Government make an official announcement to refute the allegations that harm Egyptian citizens and explain to the Egyptian and world public how serious the accusations are."]

U.S.-Egyptian 'Bright Star' Military Exercise Continues

NC1511181093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 15 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian and U.S. forces today continued their the Bright Star 1993 exercise for the second day in a row. The seven-day exercise is being carried out on the northern coast.

In the second phase of the exercise, which began today, Egyptian and U.S. forces, assisted by armored vehicles and antitank helicopters, attacked vital points in a pocket of land situated between two hostile brigades. These forces succeeded in opening a gap in the lines of the enemy forces for the purpose of penetrating those lines.

The attack was carried out by commando and special units to cause confusion in the enemy's defense lines.

Helicopters were used to inflict the biggest losses on the enemy. Electronic warfare was also used to jam and interfere with the enemy's communications. [passage omitted]

Exercise Detailed

NC1611125793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 16 Nov (MENA)—For the third consecutive day, Egyptian and U.S. forces continued their joint military exercises within the framework of the seven-day "Bright Star 1993" exercises held on the north coast, west of Alexandria.

The field exercises carried out by the joint forces included an attack to repel an enemy force. This followed the joint forces' success yesterday, halting the enemy's advance and opening a gap in its defense.

The joint forces established a line to repel the enemy armor with the aim of repelling the attack and inflicting as many losses as possible on the enemy's ranks. Following the joint forces' success, an armored brigade was sent to attack an enemy flank supported by antitank helicopters. This attack led the enemy to retreat and form new lines in preparation for another attack tomorrow.

Units from the mechanized infantry, tanks, the marines, the shock troops, the air force, and the electronic warfare branch took part in the exercise.

Staff Major General 'Abd-al-Latif Mabruk, head of the Armed Forces' training branch, said the tactics of using soldiers in Bright Star will end tomorrow, when the exercise will continue for another two days in the form of a command plan with the aim of training commanders and officers in staging practical operations that involve using maps while facing other situations that require the use of forces or part of them.

He added: The Egyptian forces' performance in the exercises was efficient and well organized. The U.S. forces put in every effort, raising the level of the exercises, which aim to train units how to cooperate with other forces to destroy a common enemy. He said: Electronic warfare systems were used, most notably in stalling and jamming operations. Helicopters were used extensively in the exercises, especially to destroy tanks.

Staff Maj. Gen. Mabruk said the exercises showed how combat methods in desert terrain, "open terrain," had developed. He noted that Bright Star includes training in protection from the hostile side's use of nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons and in eliminating the damage caused by these weapons.

The Egyptian officer said Bright Star 1993's exercises are based on real fighting between two forces with each side trying to defeat the other. The nature of the fighting finds both sides facing different, unplanned situations, each side analyzing every exercise to pinpoint the weak and strong points in its forces and improve its combat performance. He added that the results of the exercises will be analyzed when they are finished to define the combat efficiency of the two sides that represented the hostile and friendly forces.

Staff Maj. Gen. Mabruk said: The focus during the exercises was on night operations. A naval landing operation was carried out on the first night. He added that the exercises included night reconnaissance operations and raids by the shock troops and that the joint forces proved their great efficiency during these night operations.

He stressed that some units in the Egyptian Army are now being supplied with advanced M1A1 tanks instead of the old tanks, adding that Egyptian Army units will be equipped with these tanks by 1994. He added that Egypt welcomes joint exercises with fraternal Arab and African countries and referred to delegations from several Arab countries observing the exercises. He said, however, that no program has been compiled for joint exercises with Arab or African countries. [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff Attends Exercise

NC1611223593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, today attended the last tactical stage of the joint Egyptian-American exercises known as "Bright Star 1993." This stage was finalized by an aerial landing of the Egyptian and American Air Forces on the enemy's back defense lines and advancing detachments toward its front lines to continue chasing enemy forces, forcing them to withdraw, and restoring conditions to their earlier state.

Marine units from the U.S. fleet, Egyptian Alfajet planes, antitank Gazelle helicopters, U.S. Cobra planes, mechanized infantry, squad forces, and paratroopers from both sides participated in this last stage.

Chief of Staff Salah Halabi, accompanied by Lieutenant General Alis, commander of the U.S. side, used a helicopter to inspect the location of the forces during this operation and learn of the latest military positions. The last stage was also attended by the head of the Armed Forces' training branch, ranking officers in the Egyptian Armed Forces, and the military attaches of some Arab and European countries.

Fourth Day of Exercise Detailed

NC1711101593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Alexandria, 17 Nov (MENA)—The joint Egyptian and U.S. forces continued their maneuvers for the fourth consecutive day within the framework of the "Bright Star 1993" exercise.

Following today's operation, the troop maneuvers will end. But Bright Star will continue with a command project designed to train commanders in the use of maps without the aid of forces in the field.

Final commentary and conclusions on lessons from the exercise will take place on Friday in the presence of all the Egyptian and American commanders participating.

The fourth day's practical exercise began when Egyptian and American paratroopers were dropped behind enemy lines to confuse and disperse its forces.

Antitank helicopters and fighter aircraft hit enemy positions to force the enemy forces to adopt a defensive posture.

The enemy tried to bring in an armored brigade to counterattack in the direction of the joint Egyptian and American forces to stop their advance and defend their own positions. But the joint forces repulsed this attack with mechanized infantry forces, tanks, and antitank aircraft, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment on the enemy forces. The joint forces then attacked the enemy positions and equipment to force the enemy forces to retreat to the borders from which they came.

In the past two days, the joint forces checked the enemy assault as it penetrated the international border and captured territory 100 km deep. The joint forces attacked the enemy forces and repeatedly forced them to retreat.

The enemy forces tried to carry out armored counterattacks to keep the land they captured, but the joint forces foiled them and opened gaps in the enemy line, forcing it to retreat after suffering grave losses.

U.S. fleet marines, mechanized infantry, tanks, self-propelled guns, mortars, fighter-bomber aircraft, antitank helicopters, shock troops, military engineers, paratroopers, and reconnaissance and electronic warfare personnel participated in today's exercise.

The exercise that ended today demonstrated the Egyptian and U.S. forces' competence in combat activities behind enemy lines to destroy its reserves, in dropping paratroopers and shock troops behind enemy lines, and in moving mechanized infantry and tank units to seize positions behind enemy lines after confusing it and dispersing its forces.

The exercise also demonstrated the competence of participating Air Force units, including fighter-bomber aircraft, such as the Alpha Jet and F-16, and antitank helicopters, such as the Egyptian Gazelle and U.S. Cobra. Units of 155-mm self-propelled guns and mortars were also used in the exercise to destroy the enemy artillery.

The exercise showed that Egyptian and U.S. forces cooperate fully in planning and implementation, especially in carrying out attacks toward the enemy rear.

Emergency situations were assumed during the combat operations to learn how commanders act in them, especially when contact is lost with command centers because of the other side's delaying and confusing acts.

The commanders showed the ability to make swift decisions correctly at the proper time and showed an understanding of their tasks during the combat operations.

Military engineering units from both sides participated extensively in the maneuver. Missiles to open gaps in enemy minefields and fortifications were used efficiently. And electronic warfare methods were used, most notably to disrupt and jam each side's communications with its command.

Mubarak Receives Afghan President Rabbani 16 Nov

Regional, International Issues Discussed

NC1611215593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received at the presidential headquarters today Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani. The two presidents held a bilateral round of talks that lasted for an hour. After that, the members of the Egyptian and Afghan delegations joined the meeting.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated after the expanded meeting that the two presidents affirmed the firm, historic, and national relations between the two countries. President Rabbani expressed his appreciation for Egypt's policies under President Mubarak and the Afghan people's appreciation for Egypt's stand alongside the Afghan people in their struggle and fight to liberate their land. He pointed out that Egypt was the first country and the first people to offer aid and participate in the liberation of Afghanistan.

In their talks, the two presidents discussed Arab and Islamic issues and changes, as well as regional and international issues and the changes dictated by the new world order. They also affirmed the importance of cooperation between the two countries on all levels.

Rabbani on Afghan Mujahidin

NC1711090093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has praised Egypt's role and stance alongside the Afghan people and their victory over their enemies. [passage omitted]

He discussed his meeting with President Husni Mubarak and said their talks focused on different issues of bilateral interest. We discussed strengthening political, cultural, and economic relations, he said, and we noted the complete response in every field from the Egyptian

president and Government officials. We hope our relations will strengthen, he added.

The Afghan president was being interviewed on Egyptian television tonight. [passage omitted]

On disputes involving the leaders of the Afghan mujahidin, the Afghan president said that after social and political change and revolution in any country, there are transitional stages with problems. We inherited various problems from the previous regime in Afghanistan. The collapsing former Soviet Union destroyed much of the economy and basic structures. In Afghanistan, we found many problems. And there were mistakes and excesses by people in the ranks of the mujahidin [words indistinct] of these problems.

He said there are no tribal or racial problems in Afghanistan; even if there are, he said, they are limited. These problems will be solved soon, God willing. He said: Our problems in Afghanistan are very limited compared with the problems that affect other places. Some media perhaps exaggerate Afghan issues, when they could be addressing the real humanitarian problems. [passage omitted]

President Rabbani said: The mujahidin government now controls the whole of Afghanistan. It has set up the administrative system in the north, the west, the south, and the east. There is good cooperation and there are no problems in the governorates. There were some problems in the suburbs of the capital, but, with God's help, we have overcome most of them; only a few remain, which we will solve, God willing.

On Afghanistan's relations with the rest of the world and with its neighbors in view of international changes following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Afghan president said his country is distinguished by a strategic geographic position in the region, acquiring importance in view of the new world situation.

We have declared our stance on foreign relations: We will not interfere in others' affairs and will allow no other state to interfere in our internal affairs. There is friendship and cooperation between us and these countries. We build constructive relations with the Islamic countries based on mutual cooperation. We have good relations with the newly independent republics. We have borders with Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. We want to build trade routes between us and these republics so that they have an outlet to the sea through Afghanistan and Pakistan and can open up to the rest of the world.

On Afghanistan's stance on elements from Arab and Islamic countries joining the Afghan mujahidin in their struggle and staying on in Afghanistan and carrying out harmful activities, especially concerning instability in their homelands, President Rabbani said that during their struggle against the Russian aggression, youths from various Islamic and Arab countries struggled along with the Afghan people. After we triumphed, we advised those who shared our trenches to return home. Some institutions from Islamic countries built camps in Pakistan and the cities near Afghanistan, in Peshawar, and [name indistinct]. These institutions belonged to Islamic and non-Islamic countries. We would tell them that Afghanistan allows no party or group to turn it into a springboard for terrorism against their own countries.

President Rabbani added that the Afghan jihad strongly opposed any acts of sabotage. When we fought the invading Russians, we carried out no acts outside Afghanistan. We avoided hitting the institutions or harming people. We were never responsible for any hijacking, for assassinating an Afghan communist outside Afghanistan, or assassinating Russian agents inside Afghanistan. Our main concern was to liberate the country and remove the aggressors.

He said because of this, after Afghanistan was liberated, we showed Islam's forgiveness toward those who fought against us for 14 years. We proved that Islamic jihad is a clean and honest struggle against the usurping colonialist and creates no problems. We advised the youths who returned to their countries to be honest fighters and constructive elements for their countries so that they do not destroy that which was sacrificed during their jihad days. [passage omitted]

Rabbani Departs; Media Agreement Signed

NC1711111393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Afghan President Burhanoddin Rabbani held a final session of talks at al-Qubbah Presidential Palace this morning. Official farewell ceremonies were held for the Afghan president afterward. Senior state officials bade him farewell at the palace. President Mubarak accompanied the Afghan president to Cairo Airport, from where he left for Alexandria on a two-day private visit.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said Presidents Mubarak and Rabbani reviewed conclusions reached about bilateral cooperation at the final session and added that a media agreement was signed today between Egypt and Afghanistan to prepare a permanent protocol, develop existing protocols, and receive experts and specialists on radio, television, and press.

[In a related report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0822 GMT on 17 November adds the following: "The information minister said Presidents Mubarak and Rabbani today reviewed international and regional issues of concern to both countries and means to promote and develop bilateral cooperation in various spheres for the good of the two nations.

["As for the media, he said, a bilateral agreement was signed on preparing a permanent protocol, developing existing protocols, and receiving experts and specialists in radio, television, and press.

["He added that President Mubarak agreed to give Afghanistan 500 hours of radio and television programs in line with Afghan society's traditions. The president also agreed to set a date soon for Egyptian radio engineering experts to travel to Afghanistan to support and evaluate the performance of Afghan media and to watch a facility being installed to receive the Egyptian Space Channel.

["The information minister said agreement was also reached to develop radio transmissions beamed to Afghanistan in the Afghan and Persian languages and to extend its transmission hours. There was an additional bilateral agreement on exchanging cultural and media literature through the embassies in Cairo and Kabul."]

Egyptian, Afghan Ministers Discuss Media Cooperation

NC1611190093 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] The Egyptian and Afghan information ministers met today to review media relations between the two countries and ways to upgrade them to the level of the historic and close ties linking the two countries and peoples. They agreed to train the Afghan press staff at the Public Information Service and to train the Afghan radio and television staff at the specialized institutions in the Egyptian Radio and Television Union. An Afghan specialized team will visit Egypt to develop the media cooperation protocol between the two countries. They also agreed to send a number of experts to Afghanistan to help upgrade and modernize its media organs and to conduct the necessary technical checks to see if the Egyptian Satellite Channel can be received there.

President Mubarak has given instructions to give the Afghan media 500 hours of Egyptian programs as a gift.

Mubarak Receives Phone Call From Yemeni President

NC1311215793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih this evening. They discussed developments in the Arab world and issues of mutual interest.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Arrives, To Meet Musa

NC1611085993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0657 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah and his delegation arrived in Cairo early this morning on an official visit to Egypt lasting several days.

The Yemeni minister is scheduled to hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the Horn of Africa, Arab relations, the Middle East peace effort, and bilateral relations.

Meets Mubarak

NC1611103193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0938 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah, who arrived in Cairo earlier today, at the presidential palace this morning. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa attended.

Afterward, the Yemeni foreign minister said he conveyed to President Mubarak a verbal message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He added that his discussions with President Mubarak dealt with Egyptian-Yemeni relations and restoring Arab solidarity. He described his meeting with the president as fruitful and very useful, adding: We will always be guided by President Mubarak's advice and sound views.

On events in his country, the Yemeni foreign minister said: I believe the problems will be solved. This is a price we must pay in return for choosing the democratic process. He added that he answered President Mubarak's questions on this.

The Yemeni minister praised President Mubarak for seeking assurance on events in Yemen.

Mubarak Asks African Leaders To Finance South Africa Fund

NC1311141093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has sent messages to African leaders asking them to help finance the fund set up to support the election in South Africa, which aims to help the liberation movements in South Africa to participate in the election scheduled for April 1994.

A statement issued today by the Foreign Ministry's press spokesman said these messages are part of moves by the Egyptian chairmanship of the OAU in support of the positive changes that aim to establish a democratic and nonracial regime in South Africa.

The OAU summit held in Cairo in June 1993 decided to set up this fund to help the liberation movements shoulder the necessary burdens of the election campaign and to urge citizens to participate in the election.

Three Sudanese Detainees Released

PM1011124293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Nov 93 p7

[Ashraf al-Faqiyy report: "Egypt Releases Three Sudanese"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-HAYAH has learned that the Egyptian security authorities have decided to deport three Sudanese detainees to their country immediately as part of the confidence-building measures and efforts to solve outstanding problems between the two countries. The Egyptian authorities' decision was in response to the Sudanese authorities' decision to release three Egyptian detainees.

A Sudanese diplomatic source in Cairo has told AL-HAYAH that these measures were in implementation of the agreement reached by the foreign ministers of the two countries during their July meeting in Cairo when they agreed to stop their hostile campaigns and release the detainees in Egypt and Sudan as soon as possible. The source added that the proposed date for the next meeting between Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih is 14 November and that Sudan has received no Egyptian request for its postponement. Musa has recently criticized Abu-Salih's statements on Hala'ib. He said: "There is no need for such statements so long as there is a possibility of Egyptian-Sudanese meetings. The results of the meetings between the two sides depend on goodwill and their aim is to serve mutual interests."

Minister Details Economic Agreement With Russia

NC1611221993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, minister of economy and foreign trade, has announced that a new agreement has been signed to bolster economic exchange between Egypt and the Russian Federation during the Egyptian economic delegation's visit to Moscow recently.

The minister of economy and foreign trade said in a statement today that the agreement allows dealings in the national currencies of both countries. This opens the door to increasing Egyptian exports and speeds up the transfer of the value of the exports to Egypt. The previous agreement did not provide this facility. He added that the agreement also enables both Egypt and Russia to treat each other as a most favored nation.

Sidqi Confers With Danish, British Ministers

NC1311142393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi received Danish Development Minister Helle Degn and her accompanying delegation in his office this afternoon. Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation, attended. Degn said she and Dr. Sidqi reviewed bilateral cooperation and projects Denmark is participating in through funding in Upper Egypt, particularly infrastructure projects. She praised President Mubarak's efforts to achieve a fair and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and Egypt's success in completing the first phase of economic reform.

Dr. Sidqi also received Baroness Chalker, British minister for overseas development. Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector and minister of state for administrative development and environment affairs, attended. The meeting reviewed areas of bilateral cooperation, particularly administrative reforms and improving performance in government departments and the public business sector to promote the overall development plan.

Musa Involved in Car Mishap En Route to Airport

NC1611154793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1438 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's motorcade was involved in a road accident this afternoon when it collided with a private car while the minister was on his way to Cairo International Airport for a trip to Addis Ababa.

Some damage was caused to the minister's car, and he had to move into one of the accompanying cars.

The driver of the private car and some guards received slight bruises.

Musa, who sustained no injuries, left Cairo for Addis Ababa this afternoon to attend a African ministerial [OAU] meeting.

Prosecution Office Investigates Asian 'Espionage Network'

NC1511172293 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 12 Nov 93 p 1

[Report by Najwa 'Abd-al-'Aziz]

[Text] The Higher State Security Prosecution Office is holding extensive investigations into a case involving an espionage network run by a major Asian country. State security magistrates have remanded several people in custody pending investigations, but released a journalist.

The magistrates began interrogating three members of the spy ring. The ring, which is headed by an Asian press attache [mustashar i'lami], includes a former journalist and others. The suspects were arrested in an elegant neighborhood by a high-level security team. The Asian country is believed to have obtained important military and civilian information about certain areas and key Egyptian figures.

State Security Prosecutor 'Abd-al-Sami' Sharaf-al-Din, has ordered the confiscation of evidence found in the homes of the defendants, including drawings, documents, and maps about the sensitive military and

civilian areas. The prosecutors will confront the defendants with the evidence during the course of the interrogations.

The prosecution has inspected some of the areas frequented by the defendants. The Asian press attache has been deported. The Prosecution Office continues to investigate the case.

Unknown Assailants Attack Village Mayor's House

NC1511221493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Asyut, 15 Nov (MENA)—Unknown assailants today attacked the combined house and offices of the mayor of the al-Habalisah village, located in al-Qusiyah district in Asyut Governorate. Four people were injured in the attack: Yusuf Muhammad Yusuf, 35; Muhammad Yahya Muhammad, 35; Muhammad Muhammad 'Ali, 35; and Salih Ahmad 'Ali, 45. Police are searching for the perpetrators. The al-Qusiyah Prosecution Office is investigating the case.

Consultative Council Reports on Measures To Combat Terrorism

NC1211215493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] In its final report on confronting terrorism, which it has referred to the president of the republic, the Consultative Council concentrates on external confrontation in both its aspects. The first is bilateral confrontation with those states that are proven to harbor terrorism by using Egypt's diplomacy, which is based on the distinguished relations Egypt has with most world countries. The second aspect is international group confrontation and international and regional cooperation to combat terrorist acts.

The report also addresses measures for dealing with the roots of terrorism in the economic field by not passing the consequences of economic reform onto the shoulders of the poor classes. In addition, it discusses the need to pay attention to developing the governorates, areas, and poor quarters, and correcting the economic structure of the slum areas as part of the reform policy.

Group of 'Extremists' Profiled

NC1311132493 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 12 Nov 93 pp 65-66

[Report by Hamdi Rizq: "Notification and Propagation—a Group for Graduating Extremists"]

[Excerpts] In the world of extremism and terrorism, every shaykh has his own way and every terrorist group has 1,000 ways to undermine stability and shake public security. Inside this terrifying world there are groups that know nothing but the language of weapons and hear nothing but the sound of bullets.

But there are groups that always live in the shade, in the margin, far from conflicts, awaiting the chance to attack.

One of these groups is Notification and Propagation [al-tabligh wa al-da'wah]. It has known no conflict with the security forces or any other group. It raises the banner of no to politics. But it does not cease to mobilize the young and the old. Its followers can be counted in their thousands and its private mosques are spread everywhere. Its amirs roam the world on shuttle tours between India in the East and America in the West and even Australia in the South.

The battle has been going on all this year between Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Umar, director of al-Gharbiyah security, and the amirs of this group. He has been trying to end their trickery immediately before they start a conflagration and they have been defying his authority and trying to guide and include him in the group.

At first, Maj. Gen. 'Umar could only stop the spread of the Notification and Propagation Group in Tanta by arresting all its members wherever they were and deporting them to the villages and towns from which they came.

By last week, over 200 extremists had been arrested in Tanta. The community leaders and shaykhs of al-Gharbiyah have strict instructions to immediately report the presence of group members in the private mosques, arrest them, and hand them over to the security directorate. [passage omitted]

The al-Gharbiyah security director has warned of the danger from this group. He affirmed that it is a hatchery for extremist elements that concern security day and night. Terrorist Diya' Khalaf, who attempted to assassinate Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi on al-Shaykh Rayhan Street, was one of the amirs of this group and was educated in its rooms. There are many such people in the group's "nurseries," awaiting their turn to hatch and get out to the field of violent action. [passage omitted]

The group's 1,000-mile road begins at al-Rahmah mosque, which has three floors. The fourth floor is unfinished. [passage omitted]

The mosque did not exist 12 years ago and 18 years ago the Notification and Propagation Group was not so active and did not have hundreds of members all over Egypt. There is no disagreement among group members that the group originated in India. [passage omitted]

The group's leadership—as Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Shuman, amir of Tanta, told AL-MUSAWWAR—now consists of Shaykh Tahah from Tamwah, Hajj Hasan Nasr from Hulwan, Shaykh Makrum from the Dar al-Salam neighborhood in Cairo, Shaykh Farid al-'Iraqi from al-Sharqiyah, Ibrahim Safratah from the al-Muhandisin neighborhood in Cairo, Dr. Shukhri 'Arafah from al-Minufiyah, and Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Abdallah

of the Fatimah al-Zahra' mosque in the al-Muhandisin neighborhood in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Five Killed in Explosion of 'Unidentified Object'

NC1311140993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1313 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 13 Nov (MENA)—Five people were killed and seven others wounded when an unidentified object, believed to be left over from the war, exploded in the village of Bihmu near Sinnuris in al-Fayyum Governorate.

Preliminary investigation shows that one of the people who died was riding a bike when it broke down in the village. Looking around for a sharp object to use to fix it, the man found something that seemed suitable. But the object exploded when he started to repair the bike.

A responsible security source denied any terrorist or subversive act is behind the incident. The source pointed out that the object was probably left behind after military operations in the area long ago. He called on citizens not to handle any unidentified objects found in the area, but to report them immediately to the authorities.

Al-Fayyum Security Chief Major General Ahmad Shihatah and his deputy went to the scene. The Prosecution Office is investigating the case and ordered an autopsy to be performed on the dead. A bomb expert from the Interior Ministry's criminal laboratory was summoned to inspect the scene.

Al-Fayyum Governor Dr. Faruq al-Tilawi visited the wounded in the General al-Fayyum Hospital and authorized cash assistance to be given to the families of the dead and wounded.

Foreign Debt Situation Clarified

NC1211221893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] A responsible source at the Ministry of International Cooperation has affirmed that Egypt will not enter into any negotiations to reschedule its trade debts with foreign banks that are obtained through international banking conditions.

The source at the Ministry of International Cooperation affirmed that the negotiations with the Paris Club to reschedule Egypt's debts were over only those debts guaranteed by the government. The official noted at the same time that the government welcomes the purchase of these debts on the international markets, as well as reselling or investing them in Egyptian markets by any investors who wish to make use of the discount they will get from the creditor sides. The source pointed out that there are no fears regarding foreign ownership of some companies in Egypt as a result of the resale of debts in return for buying these companies.

Libya

Former Intelligence Chief 'Kidnapped' in Tunis

NC1711075093 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 15 Nov 93 p 9

[Text] On the orders of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Libyan security agencies kidnapped Yunis Balqasim from a hotel in Tunis, where he had gone to stay. Balqasim was an interior minister and then director of the Libyan intelligence service in the seventies. Following differences with al-Qadhdhafi when al-Qadhdhafi proposed the People's Congresses, he chose to go to Germany, where he stayed for 10 years. He returned to Tripoli and asked to be transferred to Tunis. Libyan security men recently went to Tunis, anesthetized him by force, and took him to Libya via the Tunisian border. They tricked Tunisian border security men into believing that he was sick. He is now detained in a Libyan jail.

Closure of Tunisian Border Denied Again

LD1611143393 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1412 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Nov (JANA)—A source at the General People's Committee for Unity has once again denied news reports about the closure of the Libyan-Tunisian border. The source said in a press statement that the Libyan authorities have not taken any measures to close their border with Tunisia and that the movement of traffic to and from Tunisia has remained normal throughout recent days.

Yugoslav Minister Praises al-Qadhdhafi Efforts

LD1711084093 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0707 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 17 Nov (JANA)—Vladislav Jovanovic, the Yugoslav foreign minister, has praised the efforts made by the brother leader of the revolution for ending the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, and the efforts of the Great Jamahiriyah for bringing about peace in this region.

At a press conference he held last night in Tripoli he said that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Great Jamahiriyah had had a positive role from the start of the conflict in Yugoslavia, and the leader had made serious endeavors for maintaining the unity of Yugoslavia, because he understood the core of the crisis in Yugoslavia. He also said: I am convinced that the efforts of the leader will help to bring back a unified Yugoslavia.

Regarding the escalation of the unjust mandatory measures against the Great Jamahiriyah following the wrong resolution imposed by the Western states at the UN Security Council, Jovanovic said that the escalation of these measures was an attempt to exact revenge from the Great Jamahiriyah due to its positive role in the world. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Minister Discusses Integration

EA1411180093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, minister for presidential affairs, recently paid a visit to the splaj, accompanied by Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Ismail, secretary general of the International Popular Friendship Council. In a press statement, Dr. al-Jan said he had delivered a letter from Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the republic, to the internationalist leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in the context of exchanging views and ideas between the two countries, and a letter from General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice president of the republic, to his Libyan counterpart.

His excellency went on to say that, during the visit, meetings had been held by the committee charged with following up on Libyan-Sudanese integration, during which agreements in all areas had been reviewed. He said an agreement had been reached on the need to invigorate the work of effecting integration between the two countries and evaluating the future scope of integration between Sudan and Libya, once legislative and foundation-laying work had been completed and joint committees had been formed.

His excellency said that, during the visit, an agreement had been reached on the nature of the various activities designed to extend integration to its aspired-to horizons in the fields of investment and trade to enable Sudan and the Jamahiriyah to establish exemplary relations through integration.

Memorandum Criticizes Salvation Front Practices

PM1511151093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Nov 93 p 4

['Ali al-Ruz report: "Libyan Salvation Front Leaders Issue Memorandum Criticizing Front Leadership's Practices"]

[Text] London—Four members of the Libyan National Salvation Front have issued an internal memorandum, expressing opposition to the working method inside the Front and some other organizational matters. The memorandum is signed by 'Umar al-Fathali, Ibrik Suwaysi, Colonel Khalifah Haftar, and 'Abd-al-Majid Biyuk.

Dr. Muhammad al-Muqaryif, the Front's secretary general, told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that the Front is a "big organization which has constitutionally legitimate organs which rely primarily on democracy in all debates. It will not change this approach as long as it is presenting itself as an alternative to the current regime in Libya. The leadership committee receives all written and verbal opinions relating to the course of internal actions or external practices. We always discuss these matters within the framework of the institutions that have the powers to settle any issues."

The memorandum criticized the Front for its handling—at the information level—of the the mutiny which occurred on 11 October in Bani Walid, Libya. It said that the statement issued by the Front, claiming responsibility for the military mutiny, posed a threat to the fate of hundreds of people who were detained in these incidents, and their families too. The memorandum added: "Issuing this statement at this particular time and in such a manner confirms the domination of the mentality of paying attention to media publicity and making temporary gains, without paying attention to subsequent dangers."

It went on: "We as members of the leadership committee have no reservations about issuing a statement in which they refer to events and emphasize the motives and identity of those who participated in that military attempt." "We were not invited to the meeting held in Washington which issued the Front's statement. Nor were most members of the leadership committee consulted in this connection, especially those who are concerned with this issue and represent the majority in the liaison committee inside (...)—which means that a substantial amount of information on the development of events was unavailable to those who prepared the statement, especially with regard to assessing potential reactions (...). We—the signatories to the memorandum—contacted the Front's secretary general, the deputy head of the political department, the head of the permanent bureau, and some members of the leadership committee who attended the meeting. We informed them of our protest at the content of the statement and asked them to delay its release, but their reactions were very bad."

The memorandum concluded: "The way in which the events were dealt with is another proof of the erroneous practices of the Front's leadership, which have prompted many of your brothers to urge the need to reexamine the Front's organizational reality and to rebuild it on strong foundations (...). The participation of the largest possible number of the Front's members in the process of reforming and rebuilding it has become a pressing necessity."

Suwaysi, one of the signatories to the memorandum, told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that the memorandum is "an internal matter concerning resolving some internal organizational matters, and it should not have reached any quarter outside the Front." He stressed that the memorandum "reflects a healthy phenomenon inside the Front. It is not new to us. We have used these methods inside the Front in the past."

Asked whether the memorandum is an indication of a split or a rebellion, Suwaysi said: "There is no split, and we are committed to the Front's aims represented in toppling the regime and establishing a democratic alternative based on free popular choice. These matters are discussed continuously. It is an internal measure concerning members of the Front and the clarification of our position. It is not our aim to reveal what we are discussing to the outside world."

Ibrahim Sahd, spokesman for the Front, has denied to AL-HAYAH the existence of "any dispute or split in the

Front," which adopts "democracy as a means of making decisions and building positions." He emphasized that "the Front's principles include the right of every member to express his opinion, whatever it is." He stressed that there is no crisis inside the Front, pointing out that "all brothers are committed to the struggle more than ever before." And that the rumors circulating in this connection "do not deserve a response."

AL-HAYAH has received another memorandum distributed by members in the Front dated last August. It contains criticism of some of the Front's practices.

Differences Within Front Highlighted

PM1511122893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Nov 93 pp1, 4

['Ali Salih report: "Differences Within Libyan Salvation Front and Calls for Its Leader's Resignation"]

[Excerpt] London—There are signs of deep divisions or even a split in the National Front for the Salvation of Libya [NFSL]. This was reflected in a statement issued on 27 October signed by NFSL leadership members 'Umar al-Fathali, Burayk Suwaysi, Colonel Khalifah Haftar, and 'Abd-al-Majid Bayuk. The statement criticizes a previous NFSL statement issued on 25 October claiming responsibility for the military mutiny which occurred early last month and confirming that those responsible for the mutiny were organizationally linked to it.

The 27 October statement describes the 25 October statement as inaccurate and says that "those responsible for issuing that statement were wrong and acted unwisely where national interests were concerned." It added that "issuing a statement to that effect at that particular time confirmed a mentality interested in media prominence regardless of the risks and disasters which might ensue."

The signatories of the 27 October statement justified their opposition to the 25 October statement by saying that the statement should have first been discussed by all members of the leadership, especially the two members specializing in that field who also represent the majority in the Internal Liaison Committee.

The statement was issued after a meeting held in Washington. Not all members were invited to that meeting although most of them were in the city at the time.

A previous unsigned statement issued on 23 August expressed the dissatisfaction of many NFSL members with the NFSL's organizational, practical, and movement aspects, which undermine their aspirations and hopes for their cause. The statement said that "the NFSL has reached a dead end in its struggle, having lost its way. It is no longer able to fulfill its temporary or strategic objectives." The statement attributed this to "the shaky will of its leadership and the failure of that leadership to take independent initiatives."

A senior NFSL official denied any knowledge of the 27 October statement and therefore refused to comment on it. He said: "I personally have not seen that statement, so I cannot comment on it." But the official, who is Ibrahim 'Abd-al-'Aziz Sahd, acknowledged the second statement calling for reforms in the NFSL. He described it as "just a part of the differences of opinion which occur in any democratic organization such as ours."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his headquarters in the United States, Sahd said that "the statement calling for reforms is nothing more than a difference of opinion. There are, within the NFSL, responsible legitimate organizational institutions capable of tackling any issue or disagreement that might appear within it."

Burayk Suwaysi, one of the signatories of the statement, said he was surprised that it reached the press. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said that "the truth is that it was originally just an internal note for the leadership members dealing with a particular issue, not for distribution outside the NFSL bodies."

Burayk confirmed "the existences of differences of opinion within the NFSL, like any other organization." In reply to a question about numerous voices within the NFSL calling for the resignation of its leader Dr. Muhammad al-Muqaryif, Burayk said that "it is natural to find such talk in any organization or establishment but I do not wish to deny or confirm it."

He also refused to confirm or deny the existence of a split or secession trend in the NFSL ranks. He said: "The statement dealt with a particular internal matter that we discussed, namely that a statement was issued without prior consultation with some leadership members. It has not reached the point of a split or secession, which is out of the question, but that does not mean that there are no discussions and arguments within the NFSL."

Another NFSL source in London has confirmed that there are serious differences within the NFSL. He claimed that 95 percent of the members and the majority of the leadership members want Dr. al-Muqaryif to resign.

Another, non-NFSL Libyan opposition source has also confirmed the existence of differences within the NFSL. He said: "There is a major split within the NFSL." Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Ghalbun, leader of the Libyan Constitutional Union, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "there is a major split within the NFSL. A number of its founders and financiers are fed up with the practices of the NFSL secretary general and the leadership members close to him." He said that "the Committee of Founders and Financiers fully insists that Dr. al-Muqaryif should resign." [passage omitted]

Morocco

King Hassan Addresses New Cabinet

LD1211131993 Rabat MAP in English 1246 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 12 (MAP)—King Hassan II called the new cabinet to present its program to the parliament the soonest and to see to it that the deficit does not exceed 1.5 per cent, that inflation be seriously curbed and that jobs be created to honor the Moroccan citizen.

In the address he made while appointing here Thursday [11 November] the new cabinet members, the sovereign urged the cabinet to introduce novelty in this program and to avoid routine, saying this program that must include the broad lines of the country's economic, financial and social policy will be discussed by the parliament pursuant to the procedure provided for in the amended Constitution.

The sovereign told them that once they gain the parliament's confidence... they will have to present to the House of Representatives the appropriation bill which will, the sovereign said, specify and translate in figures the government's program. "It is the appropriation bill that reflects the reality of the situation and, at the practical level, determines in figures, according to available means, the policy we intend to assign to our government", King Hassan II said.

Dealing with the responsibility incumbent upon the new cabinet, the sovereign pointed out that the members of parliament are also ministers, that the notions of minister and ministry imply mutual assistance and solidarity and that the duty of all is to "work in clarity and transparency and especially in a climate of mutual respect based on common interests".

As to the creation of a new department in charge of human rights, the sovereign said the decision was made not out of desire to follow fashion nor out of outbidding but rather in a bid to meet a basic need of our country.

King Hassan II announced that administrative courts will be very shortly set up across the country and that the move will be crowned by the instituting of a high administrative jurisdiction. The related law is already drafted and the necessary staff is available. We only need to enforce the law, the sovereign said before stressing the need to secure to each citizen his rights as they are laid down in the Constitution.

King Hassan II then noted the absence in Morocco of "a general inspection of the state" and stressed the need to set up such a department and to endow it with the required efficiency as he stressed the necessity for every ministerial department to set up its own inspection. Decentralisation, the sovereign said in this regard, must be a source of satisfaction not a source of worry.

The sovereign also announced that he had addressed to the prime minister a letter to be circulated shortly wherein he stressed the necessity to transfer civil servants regardless of their grade every four years. The move will enable the civil servants to better know their country and will usher in a more sound climate in the relationship between the civil servants and the citizens, the monarch said.

The sovereign referred again to dialog with the parliament pointing out that the parliament and the cabinet work in parallel and that a bill even when adopted in a ministers' council must be the subject of debates and dialog between the government and the parliament to make the bill reach its goal. On the other hand, when the parliament submits law proposals, the cabinet must consider them. "The distribution of powers between the executive and the legislative requires dialog and daily and positive relations", the sovereign said.

King Hassan II finally voiced hope that a strong, honest and earnest opposition will be formed in the parliament. This will be an opportunity to all parliamentarians, regardless of their trends, to set to work and to show beyond any partisan considerations their patriotism.

King Urges 4-Year Terms for Senior Civil Servants

LD1611145493 Rabat MAP in English 1239 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 16 (MAP)—A senior civil servant heading one or several departments should not remain in the same post nor in the same place for a period exceeding four years, King Hassan II said in a letter to Premier Mohamed Karim Lambrani.

"The dynamism that the senior official will find in changing the place, habits and colleagues will definitely contribute to reduce the slowness and the slackness often imputed to administrations", the sovereign explained.

"The duty of any government is to identify flaws and try to remedy them. It seems to us that the maintaining of a senior agent in the same post and same place for a long period is one of the causes of these flaws. The habits marking the relationship between the senior executive and his subordinates generate routine and entail a slackness that is harmful to the sound running of the public service," King Hassan II said.

Underlining that the Moroccan Administration, "like other administrations has its characteristics and merits," the sovereign said "it implements the policies we decide at all levels and in all fields. It manages, in the best possible way, the affairs of the country, and sees to it that the prosperity, well-being, and security of the citizens are secured and their needs fulfilled".

"The Moroccan Administration agents, whatever their grade, always show a clear dedication to their responsibility and unfailing determination to adequately fulfill their tasks", King Hassan II said, adding that the Moroccan Administration "has unfortunately its flaws too, [words

indistinct] proper to it and which are found almost in the administrations of so many other countries."

The sovereign finally requested the prime minister to see to the strict and rigorous respect of the royal decision.

Lambrani Chairs First Meeting of New Cabinet

LD1611131993 Rabat MAP in English 1244 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 16 (MAP)—The new Moroccan cabinet, appointed last week by King Hassan II, discussed Monday [15 November] during its first meeting, chaired by Premier Mohamed Karim Lambrani, the governmental program to be presented to the parliament. The cabinet members were handed last Friday a document relating to the major hubs of the program the government is to work out and present to the House of Representatives the soonest possible.

The document is actually only a work platform that can be discussed and amended until we reach a comprehensive program taking into account the needs and means available within a global frame, said Premier Lambrani. He added that the broad lines of this program were drawn by King Hassan II in the address he made while appointing the new government.

Sudan

President Denouces UN Sanctions on Libya

LD1311235093 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, president of the brotherly Republic of Sudan, has stressed that it was the destiny our Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan to confront proudly the dossier of arrogance and offer a unique example in confronting siege and aggression.

In a letter he had sent to the brother leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi], he explained the significance of the recent changes in Sudan and the dissolution of the revolutionary command council, and pointed out that those measures were taken in order to confirm people's authority by handing over authority to the masses.

Al-Bashir reaffirmed his country's rejection of escalating the unjust coercive measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah through the resolution imposed by the Western countries at the UN Security Council.

During a meeting today with the brother secretary of general people's committee for unity, al-Bashir stressed Sudan's support for and solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting those measures which aimed at harming its pan-Arab role.

Assembly Condemns Sanctions

EA1611190693 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] In a statement issued today, the Transitional National Assembly criticized the new sanctions imposed on the Libyan jamahiriyah by the UN Security Council. The statement stressed that these resolutions revealed the existence of a conspiracy against Libya, which stands on the side of the higher aspirations and aims of the Arab and Islamic peoples in the context of unity and fighting against colonialism.

The statement said the states of arrogance which were targeting the Arab and Islamic nation were exploiting the international organizations to bring their ambitions to fruition. The statement said that what had happened to sister Libya could happen to any state in the region, which made unity incumbent upon them as a means of preserving their identities under the so-called new world order.

The statement went on to say that Sudan continued to warn against the dangers arising from the application of double standards to international relations.

IGADD To Meet in Nairobi on 20 Nov

EA1411220093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1748 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Nov (SUNA)—The foreign ministers of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] will meet in Nairobi on 20 November to discuss the problem of southern Sudan, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Preferential Trade Area [PTA] summit convened in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, last week. The PTA summit brought together Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Sudan on the issue.

The publication AL-NASR today said a letter from Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the republic, to the Ethiopian president, Meles Zenawi, which was delivered by Ambassador to Ethiopia 'Uthman al-Sayyid on 12 November, comprised the views of the Sudanese Government on ways likely to bring about peace in southern Sudan, while setting out Sudan's principled position on the issue of the war, this being that dialogue was the sole way to solve the problem [words indistinct].

The foreign ministers of Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Eritrea were notified on 13 November about the venue of the meeting in Nairobi under the auspices of Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, the IGADD chairman, IGADD having earlier having mediated between the government and the rebel movement.

Al-Bashir Previews Meeting

EA1611175593 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has declared that the foreign ministers of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] will meet in Nairobi next Saturday [20 November] to draw up an agenda for the forthcoming negotiations on the basis of what was arrived at during the first and second Abuja negotiations and the Nairobi negotiations as well as the results of the Fashoda meetings.

During his chairmanship of the regular meeting of the Council of Ministers, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir explained that the summit of the Preferential Trade Area was favorable for considering, with the brothers, the leaders of the IGADD group, the initiative put forward by these states to establish peace in the country. He said the African common market agreement, which was signed in Kampala, had been one of the top priorities of the organization since its birth in 1982.

Al-Bashir Praises Military, Discusses Blue Nile 'State'

EA1611170993 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has stressed that the Popular Defense Force illustrates to the whole world that Sudan can achieve the impossible. He said the Sudanese people joined the ranks of the Popular Defense voluntarily in the exercise of their choice in heed of the word of God.

Speaking during the celebrations at al-Damazin marking the passing out of 45,000 recruits from the camps of the universal appeal [al-Da'wah al-Shamilah], His Excellency said the province of al-Damazin had set all this up as a lesson to all the peoples of the world seeking to find their place in the new world order. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the programs of the universal appeal aimed to establish a distinguished and principled society and that all the revolution's programs were aimed at establishing a cohesive society free from evil.

The president went on to say: When we declared the application of the Islamic shari'ah in response to Almighty God's wish we did not do so just to impose the legal punishments [al-hudud] but as a way of life for the whole of society. He said that following the introduction of justice and equipment to the Armed Forces and the Popular Defense Force the victory of the summer crossing operation was achieved and the land liberated from the filth of the rebels.

Referring to the plan to review the division of the states, the president of the Republic said the aim of the plan was to reduce bureaucracy. He said the revolution will respond to the demands of the masses of Blue Nile that the region should become a state. He said the new state would have a university and announced his contribution of 90 million Sudanese pounds towards improving al-Damazin's water services.

Further on Student Unrest; al-Bashir Comments on Egypt

PM1511153493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Nov 93 p 1

[Mu'awiyah Yasin, Kamal Hamid, and 'Umar Muhammad al-Hasan report: "Al-Bashir Denies Any Link With Extremist Organizations, Expects Egyptian-Sudanese Summit; 300 Students Arrested at Khartoum University"]

[Excerpts] Khartoum—Sudanese security forces yesterday continued to cordon off Khartoum University buildings following violent protests after students opposed to the government accused their "Nationalist Islamist" colleagues of rigging the results of the student union elections. AL-HAYAH has learned that security authorities have arrested 300 students, including female students. The most prominent among them is an Islamic dissident named 'Ammar Muhammad Adam.

Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir ruled out the possibility of his government's conducting any mediation between hardliners in Egypt and Algeria and the governments of these two countries. He added that events in Egypt and Algeria "are internal affairs which we have nothing to do with." He said that his government has no link with any of the extremist organizations in the two countries.

The Sudanese president told a group of Arab and foreign journalists visiting Khartoum that his country is trying to apply the Islamic Shari'ah "through our understanding of it. Islam guarantees freedom of worship for all religions without denying others their rights." He attacked "all the terrorism and terrorist practices attributed to Islam." He said that "this is against the faith, because what Islam emphasizes is (protection of) people's lives."

With regard to his country's relations with Egypt, he pointed out that Khartoum will host an Egyptian-Sudanese summit this month. He expressed his hope that the two countries' foreign ministers would reach acceptable agreements to resolve the dispute between the two countries over the border Hala'ib triangle.

He expressed his government's eagerness to provide "an atmosphere of complete freedom to hold legislative elections" scheduled for 1995.

He stated that Sudan will never recognize Israel, even if it reaches peace agreements on the Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks.

Meanwhile, late Wednesday night and Thursday morning Sudanese security authorities released all the

female students arrested among the 300 students following bloody clashes between students and police on the university campus the day before yesterday.

AL-HAYAH has learned that investigations are still under way with the other students, the most distinguished of whom is 'Ammar Adam, described as a dissident of the Islamic Organization. [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH yesterday received a statement from Dr. Zaydan 'Abduh, chairman of the university election committee, in which he emphasized that reports that the election committee refused to approve the final results after discovering forged voting cards "are untrue, because no falsification has been proved to us in any way, which is why the committee approved the final results, as have the university director and deans of the various faculties." [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi Arrested After Meeting With U.S. Envoy

PM1611140693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Mu'awiyah Yasin and 'Umar Muhammad al-Hasan report: "Khartoum: Authorities Arrest al-Mahdi Following His Meeting With U.S. Ambassador"]

[Text] Khartoum—Information received by AL-HAYAH indicates that a confrontation was avoided between a number of Marines guarding the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum and Sudanese security forces in an area near the house of former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in Omdurman.

Al-Mahdi was holding meetings inside his house with U.S. Ambassador Donald Petterson.

AL-HAYAH has learned that al-Mahdi was arrested immediately after the meeting. He was held for eight hours Thursday night-Friday morning in the Sudanese security organ's premises. The authorities released him after interrogating him.

High-ranking political sources have said that Sudanese authorities are accusing al-Mahdi of being behind the unrest and troubles provoked by Khartoum University students after the announcement of the results of the student union elections, in which "Nationalist Islamists," who are loyal to the government, won. The Sudanese newspapers are expected to publish accusations to this effect against al-Mahdi today or tomorrow.

Petterson visited al-Mahdi at his home on Thursday evening, accompanied by a number of his bodyguards. When Sudanese security forces learned of the meeting, they requested reinforcements. So the ambassador's guards requested similar reinforcements from the Marine unit attached to the embassy.

A confrontation nearly took place, but Sudanese security forces withdrew from the position. They returned after the ambassador and his guards had left, to arrest and interrogate al-Mahdi.

Antiriot forces are still deployed near the Khartoum University campus. However, they have reduced the state of military alert maintained since the student union election campaign began last week.

Government sources have said that yesterday, Friday, security authorities released a large number from the 300 students arrested last Wednesday in the wake of violent clashes with the security forces.

Meanwhile, Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir announced that his government had decided to declare a cease-fire on all fronts in southern Sudan as of yesterday, Friday. It is believed that this step is aimed at providing favorable conditions for the mediation endeavors by Kenya, Uganda, and Eritrea to solve the southern Sudan problem at the request of the summit conference of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), held in September.

In another development, Ahmad Mahjub Haj Nur, member of the Transitional National Assembly (parliament), who is an activist known to be affiliated to the National Islamic Front, sharply criticized Sudanese security forces following the arrest of some 30 currency dealers last week.

Nur described the arrests as illegal, saying that they occurred before the date set by the governor of the Central Bank for the enforcement of new measures concerning dealing in foreign currency in the country.

The arrests included a number of dealers known to be affiliated to the Islamic Front, which supports the government. They were moved to an area outside the capital where they were forced to take an oath, pledging not to trade in foreign currency. The authorities have said that they arrested them as a "preemptive strike to emphasize the authorities' standing and ability to pursue those who violate the new financial policies."

It is being said in Khahrtoum that Major General Mahil Abu-Jannah, former director of the customs forces, has been relieved of post and appointed regional minister in the northern province because of his intervention to release some detainees, among them one of his aides in the management of the al-Marrikh sports club in the capital.

Foreign Minister: No Word From Egypt on Date for Talks

EA1411222193 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1735 GMT 13 nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Nov (SUNA)—Sudan has received no confirmation from the Egyptian side regarding the meeting the Sudanese side proposed to hold with the

Egyptian side in Khartoum on 14 November. The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions on pending issues between the two countries. This was reported to SUNA today [13 November] by Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, the foreign minister, who noted that Sudan had proposed the convening of such a meeting in September, but this had been postponed until October and then until November at the request of the Egyptian side.

Al-Turabi Criticizes Islamic Violence in Egypt, Algeria

PM1611125993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Arlit Khuri report: "Al-Turabi Criticizes Islamists' Violent Methods in Algeria And Egypt"]

[Text] Khartoum—Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Islamic Arab Popular Conference [and the National Islamic Front in Sudan], has criticized the violent methods used by some Islamists in Egypt and Algeria. He stressed that "Islamization cannot be achieved by force." He announced that Sudan "is not a shelter for any oppositionists. Our country is just seeking to achieve its development independently."

In a meeting held held the day before yesterday with a group of Arab and foreign journalists visiting Khartoum, al-Turabi said that "movements which crystallize in societies work to fight oppression by revolts sometimes. And if freedom is available in these societies, Islam will develop gradually within their framework."

He expressed his hope that Algeria will reach "a kind of balance at the domestic level, because the Islam of force has nothing to do with true Islam, and force should be used for self-defense, not Islamization by force." He went on to say that Sudan "is not a shelter for any oppositionists from Egypt, Algeria, or anywhere else." "Nor is it seeking to achieve anything except its development—and independently, moreover."

He believes that fundamentalism in Sudan "is a spiritual and cultural movement whose aim is to achieve popular mobilization to destroy corruption and reinforce the social fabric." He pointed out that Sudan has common borders with nine states, "and what happens here is bound to affect neighboring states."

He said that the aim of U.S. intervention in Sudan has been to determine the country's political future, saying that there are Sudanese suspicions that the Americans "were seeking to conduct a trial through their intervention in Somalia in order to do the same thing in Sudan, but fortunately they have changed their opinion with regard to Somalia and accepted the idea of a regional settlement in cooperation with neighboring states. So their intervention is now ruled out."

Asked about his leadership of organs parallel to the Sudanese regime's organs, al-Turabi said that the Americans "call me Africa's Lenin. I held several ministerial posts and I am 60 and have no political role in Sudan at all."

He went on: "The military is uling Sudan at present, and it is difficult for them to accept being led by a man like me. Thus,I will not play any political role. My role will be academic, that is all."

Al-Turabi added that the Sudanese regime is working to "achieve democracy and establish a federal formula." He said that the democracy existing in Sudan "does not need parties. So the 1995 legislative elections, which will be preceded by presidential elections involving several candidates, will not be based on partisan foundations."

He announced that the "Islamic Front" supports the Sudanese regime "but is not a party, but a tendency. And the grass roots of the former parties are now very close to the regime, because these parties did not express specific programs. They represented competition between families based on foundations inherited from the 19th century."

He expressed his hope that a settlement will be achieved to the conflict in south Sudan "based on integration between the north and the south, because it is bound to lead to economic development."

On the Israeli-Palestinian accord, al-Turabi said that "the official Sudanese position leave the freedom of decisionmaking to the Palestinians. As for us as the Islamic Popular Conference, we criticize the accord without aiming the criticism against President Yasir 'Arafat or the PLO leadership."

He added that the Islamic Arab Popular Conference, which will convene in Khartoum early in December, "will not condemn the accord. However, it will not support it 100 percent, because it does not lead to the establishment of two states, Palestinian and Israeli, but, rather, to the establishment of a Palestinian municipality in Gaza and Jericho."

He called for an world order "that is more balanced and democratic than the present order." He wondered: "Where is democracy in a world dominated by the United States and the five permanent member states of the Security Council."

Foreign Minister Decries Western Media 'Fabrications'

EA1211192593 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa, 12 Nov (SUNA)—Dr. Husayn Sulayman abu Salih, the foreign minister, has stressed Sudan's eagerness to restore Arab solidarity, and to solve Arab differences through dialogue and transparency, for the sake of well-founded Arab relations. In an interview with the Yemeni 22ND MAY, published yesterday [11 November] in Sanaa, his excellency called for solidarity and unity among Arabic and Islamic nations.

Abu Salih criticized the policies of falsification being pursued by the western states against Sudan, and against what is being disseminated by their mass media, which he described as sheer lies aimed at diverting Sudan from its national course. His excellency called on the Arab mass media not to emulate the lies and fabrications of the western media. The foreign minister stressed that Sudan was enjoying broad and strong relations with all states, and was not politically isolated as is claimed by hostile media. He described the United Nations resolution on Sudan's violations of human rights as unjust.

Foreign Ministry Thanks Arab League for 'Solidarity'

EA1411215093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Nov (SUNA)—The Foreign Ministry has lauded the principled position adopted by the Arab League, as voiced by its assistant secretary for political affairs, in rejecting any attempts aimed against Sudan's territorial integrity and condemning foreign plans to intervene in Sudan's internal affairs. The Foreign Ministry described this as a proper position, based on the Arab League's charter, which sets out as one of its priorities the protection of Arab states against exploitation of their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Foreign Ministry's statement, issued today [13 November], said that in the context of the current international changes, the Arab League was called upon to work towards asserting the unity of Arab action and to resist all attempts and plans aimed against unity and sovereignty—and exploiting the Arab states—but pointing out that this could not succeed in the face of calls for dissension and division—but only by strengthening solidarity and uplifting the value of mutual assistance. The statement expressed the satisfaction of the Sudanese Government and people at the position of solidarity taken up by the Arab League, stressing Sudan's unshakable determination to persevere with its mission to defend the identity, essence and honor of the Arab nation.

Official Denies Government Impeding Aid Efforts in South

EA1311173793 Khartoum SUNA in English 1027 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Nov (SUNA)—Two ships loaded with relief supplies would leave here within the coming two days to the south, said Awad Khalifah, general commissioner for relief and rehabilitation. He added in a statement to AL-ENGAZ AL-WATAN daily of today that the first ship, (Tabaldya) carries 1,845 tons, to be distributed in both the government-controlled areas and rebel areas on the river corridor in Malakal and Sobat. The other ship (Gumaira) carries 1,800 tons for distribution in Bahr al-Ghazal area, he added.

Khalifah denied allegations circulated by some western mass media that the government hindered the flow of relief, pointing out the attack launched by the rebels against the relief train which was carrying 1,500 tons in the area between Makair and Ariath in Bahr al-Ghazal province, assuring that relief operations would continue. [sentence as received]

He also explained that the comprehensive rehabilitation programme in Malakal, Upper Nile province, to be implemented by the commission in collaboration with donors and organizations working in this field was evidence of the government cooperation with the UN. He reiterated that the government provided all the necessary facilities to push forward relief operations and will fulfil all its obligations, including the provision of relief.

30,000 Displaced Southerners To Return

AB1311153093 Paris AFP in English 1444 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum Nov 13 (AFP)—Arrangements are being made to move 30,000 southerners displaced by the civil war from camps in the capital Khartoum back to the Fashouda area in southern Sudan's Upper Nile state, reports said Saturday [13 November].

The AL ENGAZ AL WATANI daily quoted a source in the Peace and Rehabilitation Ministry as saying an ad hoc committee had been formed to oversee arrangements, including transport.

The committee is chaired by a ministry official and comprises a representative of the Shuluk tribe (the indigenous people of the Fashouda area), as well as delegates from local and foreign non- governmental organizations and the Sudan Council of Churches.

The paper quoted the director of the relief and rehabilitation commission in Upper Nile, Gebrial Paulino, as saying his commission planned to resettle some 80,000 displaced people and others, who deserted the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) ranks in several localities in the Upper Nile.

Some "returnees" had already been employed in the civil service and agricultural projects in the region, Paulino said, adding that about 42,000 acres had been put under cultivation with the help of the Muwafaq charity organisation, an Islamic institution operating in southern Sudan.

Western Sahara

Polisario Front Official Threatens Renewed Hostilities

LD1511151693 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] The Polisario Front, which demands the independence of the Sahara, today made a veiled threat to

resume the war against Morocco. This will occur if an agreement is not reached by the end of the year on the conditions under which the referendum on Saharan self-determination is to be held. The warning was given by the Polisario Front's No. 2 man after his meeting with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana in Madrid at midday today. Good afternoon, Miguel Molleda, at the ministry.

[Molleda] Good afternoon. The Polisario Front's No. 2 man, Bechir Mustafa Sayed, who is in charge of foreign affairs, today gave Rabat a tacit ultimatum to reach a agreement on the holding of a referendum on self-determination for Western Sahara.

[Begin Sayed recording] I think I have until the end of the year to continue with this diplomatic exercise, with this attempt to obtain something through dialogue; I think that in a way there is a certain tacit ultimatum. [end recording]

[Molleda] If the Saharan demands are not met within this time the Polisario Front suggested that hostilities with Morocco could be resumed, Mustafa Sayad said after his meeting with minister Solana, for the military forces of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic have had enough. The fundamental problem is still what the basis should be for an extension of the Saharan census carried out by Spain in 1974. The Saharan side would be prepared to consider a 7 percent increase on the population of the seventies, but not to agree to the Moroccan wish to increase it by 200 percent in its favor, basically with Saharans living under the control of the Rabat government.

Kuwait

UNIKOM Spokesman on 'Tense' Situation at Border

NC1711124693 Paris AFP in English 1210 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Kuwait City, Nov 17 (AFP)—U.N. observers stepped up their patrols along the disputed border between Iraq and Kuwait on Wednesday after a demonstration by hundreds of Iraqi farmers, a U.N. spokesman said.

More than 300 Iraqis crossed into Kuwait on Tuesday to protest a new U.N. approved border which cuts through their farms.

Kuwait is digging a security trench to prevent infiltrations after a series of border skirmishes, but the farmers complain they are losing part of their fields.

'Abd-al-Latif Qabbaj, spokesman for the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), told AFP that the situation was tense on the border on Wednesday.

"UNIKOM observers have increased their daily patrols in the demilitarised zone, particularly near the Iraqi farms where the situation is tense," he said.

The farms have been cut by the new border drawn up by the United Nations after the Gulf war and approved by the world body in May.

It gives Kuwait an extra strip of land some 600 metres (yards) wide along the 200 kilometre (125 mile) Iraq-Kuwait frontier.

Kuwait has completed 160 kilometres (100 miles) of trench through the desert, and work has now begun on the final stretch, which runs through the farms.

Iraq has refused to recognise the new border, established after Iraqi forces were driven out of Kuwait by U.S.-led coalition forces in February 1991.

"The 300 Iraqis crossed the day after digging began on the final stretch of the trench," Qabbaj said.

He said that an expert had been up to the border and submitted a report to U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali earlier this month proposing compensation for the farmers.

Kuwait had offered to reimburse the farmers for land allocated to it but Baghdad rejected the offer.

U.N. sources said that tension would remain high until the farm issue was resolved along with disputes over other property, including a school and a landing strip at Umm Qasr, a town straddling the frontier.

The United Nations has had 300 unarmed observers on the border since April 1991, but they are to be joined next month by a mechanised infantry battalion from Bangladesh comprising 775 men.

An advance party of Bangladeshi officers arrived Tuesday to supervise setting up the battalion's camp in the demilitarized zone at Khor Abdallah, Qabbaj said.

It will be the first time armed U.N. soldiers will have been deployed on the border since the end of the war in February 1991.

Kuwait charged Tuesday that a group of soldiers among the Iraqis who crossed the border had opened fire on a Kuwaiti police post at Al-Mazari'.

Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ahmad Hamud al-Sabah described the demonstration by the farmers as an act of "flagrant aggression."

An Iraqi soldier was shot dead and another wounded in a border clash with Kuwaitis on November 2.

It was the first fatal incident in a number of skirmishes along the border since February 1991.

Iraqi 'Attack' on Police Post Depicted

LD1611145593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1256 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Nov—An official source today said that a group of about 350 Iraqis aboard 10 vehicles had crossed Kuwait's northern border this morning at al-Mazari' area near the border mark No. 95, and that among them were a number of armed men wearing civilian clothes accompanied by some Arab and foreign journalists. They attempted to attack some people working on a security trench, their equipment and machinery, in an area under UNIKOM [United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission] observation.

The source added that a number of Iraqi servicemen had used civilian vehicles to attack an al-Mazari' police post inside Kuwaiti territory—they opened fire on the Kuwaiti police post.

The source said that the competent authorities had informed the United Nations of the details of these two attacks, which confirmed the Iraqi regime's hostile policy that threatened security and stability in the region.

Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud has confirmed that a number of Iraqis made an assault [i'tadu] this morning on one of the companies digging a trench within the security belt project and asked the company to stop digging.

In a statement to the National Assembly, Shaykh al-Hamud said that at 0954 this morning, 350 Iraqis, armed with metal and wooden implements and some light weapons, made an assault on the company. Shaykh al-Hamud said that there were no casualties as a result but has asked for UNIKOM to be informed.

Oman

Oil Ministry Announces Record Production Level

NC1611211893 Paris AFP in English 2101 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Muscat, Nov 16 (AFP) - Oman said on Tuesday [16 November] it was producing 800,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil, its highest output level since crude oil was discovered in the Gulf state 20 years ago.

The Oman Oil Development Company, which controls the energy sector, is producing 750,000 bpd, while the rest is produced by three companies from France, Japan and the United States, the oil ministry said in a report.

Oman, which is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), has steadily boosted crude production over the past decade. It produced an average 750,000 bpd in 1992.

OPEC has blamed independent producers for the current weak oil prices, more than five dollars below the cartel's target of 21 dollars.

Oman, the de facto leader of independent oil producers in the developing world, has supported OPEC policies on prices and production by occasionally restraining production and coordinating policy between the two sides.

Qatari Oil Minister 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-'Atiyah last week urged fresh talks with non-OPEC states to agree joint output cuts similar to their accord in 1988, when prices plunged below 15 dollars a barrel.

Oman's crude reserves have also steadily risen in the past 20 years. They reached 4.7 million barrels at the end of 1992 and the figure is expected to be higher this year, the ministry said in its report, carried by the official Omani news agency.

Gas reserves have also surged, to 20 trillion cubic feet (600 billion cubic metres) from 12.2 trillion cubic feet (366 billion cubic metres), it said.

The report said Oman would be able to export six million tonnes a year of liquefied gas when a nine-billion-dollar gas project was completed in 1999.

Qatar

Amir, PLO's 'Abbas Hold Talks in Doha

JN1611133393 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1205 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Doha, 16 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani this morning received PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, who is visiting Qatar at the invitation of the al-Jasrah cultural and social club.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani and Yasin al-Sharif, the Palestinian ambassador to Qatar.

The two sides talked about recent developments in light of the Declaration of Principles the PLO and Israel signed 13 September in Washington.

They also discussed the prospects for a lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and the need for movement on all tracks of the peace process, as well as a settlement based on UN resolutions and the land-for-peace formula.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Grants Lebanon $100 Million in Aid

LD1611181993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1422 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Jeddah, 16 Nov, SPA—Within the context of the interest of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, in the movement of the Lebanese issue toward security and stability in accordance with the stipulations of the Ta'if Conference, and on the basis of his continuous interest, may God preserve him, in participating in whatever could support fraternal Lebanon and enable its people to overcome the ramifications of the Lebanese events in various vital spheres, and to enable Lebanon's development institutions to perform their active role in serving the Lebanese people, dear King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz, may God support him, has issued his noble directives to the competent quarters to approve the payment of the sum of $100 million to the Lebanese Government to help Lebanon move forward in achieving the good aims hoped for by everyone.

Yemen

Prime Minister Addresses House Session on Crisis

JN1711131093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] The House of Representatives held an ordinary session within the first term of its first annual meetings under its Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar. The prime minister, deputies prime minister, and ministers attended the session.

At the outset, the speaker welcomed the brother prime minister and members of the government. The speaker delivered an important speech, in which he said: When the House of Representatives decided to summon the government, it exercised its constitutional right, since it is the representative of the people, who gave it their confidence and entrusted it with this mission on their behalf. Also, when the House of Representatives undertook to investigate the causes of the current crisis and find solutions that spare the country its negative consequences, the House did that out of its responsibility before the people and to protect the achievements of unity, democracy, and political pluralism.

The House also did that to protect the reputation our people have earned in the wake of the 27 April elections.

The House speaker further stressed the House's readiness to cooperate with the government to find radical solutions to the crisis.

Afterward, the House speaker asked the brother prime minister to present the government's explanation of the causes, background, and ways to address the crisis.

Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister, then delivered a speech, in which he said: The cabinet received the House of Representatives' statement and its directives to the government regarding questions related to security and information and to the government's policy statement on whose basis it won the confidence of the House of Representatives.

The prime minister said the cabinet paid great attention to these directives and adopted several decisions to contribute to the efforts of the House of Representatives. The government wants to create a suitable climate to help the parties of the coalition to resume dialogue so as to reach workable, decisive solutions that prevent such political crises.

At the end of the session, the House of Representatives asked its fact-finding committee to meet this afternoon and evening to discuss the most important issues presented to the House. The House will resume its meetings tomorrow morning, God willing.

Report on Iraqi Pilots Training in Sanaa Denied

JN1611175993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa, 16 Nov (INA)—A responsible source in the Yemeni Armed Forces General Staff has denied a report published in the latest issue of the Yemeni newspaper SAWT AL-'UMMAL on the presence of 19 Iraqi pilots in Sanaa undergoing military training in Yemen.

In statements published today in the Yemeni newspaper AL-MITHAQ, the mouthpiece of the Yemeni General People's Congress, the source said that this report, which cited the London-based newspaper AL- SHARQ AL-AWSAT, is completely untrue.

The source added that publishing this report is part of the misleading rumors persistently circulated by this paper in order to create a tense atmosphere.

The Iraqi Embassy in Sanaa issued a statement yesterday refuting the SAWT AL-'UMMAL report, terming it untrue in part and parcel.

Official Receives U.S. Diplomats, Praises U.S. Position

JN1611211693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Presidential Council member, today received Margaret (Dean), chief of the Arabian Peninsula desk at the U.S. State Department, who is currently visiting our country.

They exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual concern and reviewed political developments in the region and the Middle East in general.

The Presidential Council member voiced Yemen's appreciation of the U.S. Government's position as demonstrated by the U.S. State Department's statement supporting Yemeni unity and the democratic march in Yemen.

They also discussed ties of joint cooperation and means of improving them to benefit the common interests of the two friendly countries.

The meeting was attended by Arthur Hughes, U.S. ambassador in Sanaa.

Salih Meets Austrian Deputy Foreign Minister

JN1511174693 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received Austrian Deputy Foreign Minister (Wolfgang Schelring), who is currently visiting our country. The Austrian official conveyed the Austrian president's greetings and his best wishes of further development and prosperity for our Yemeni people. During the meeting, they discussed aspects of bilateral relations, areas of joint cooperation, and ways of promoting them.

The Austrian deputy foreign minister expressed his admiration for the democratic experience in our country based on political pluralism, respect for human rights, and peaceful power sharing, referring to Austria's support for and encouragement of the democratic trend in our country.

For his part, the Presidential Council chairman praised relations and joint cooperation between our country and Austria, pointing out that there are great possibilities of promoting them in the interest of both friendly countries. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Muhammad Salim al-Mutawakkil, Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Qadir, and Austria's nonresident ambassador to our country.

Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

JN1611145193 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Excerpt] The Austrian deputy foreign minister left Sanaa today following a visit of several days to our country. [passage omitted]

Foreign Reporters Tour Kuwaiti Border, Marshes

Pro-Saddam Rallies Reported

JN1611203893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1905 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] For three consecutive days the Umm Qasr and Safwan subdistricts in al-Basrah Governorate have witnessed demonstrations in which hundreds of the subdistricts' sons have participated. The slaves—the imposed rulers on Kuwait—usurped these people's homes and farms, which they inherited from their ancestors hundreds of years ago.

The demonstrations, which began on Sunday [14 November] and continued until today, took place near the trench that is being dug by a large number of excavators and vehicles. To build this trench, 160 houses in Umm Qasr were appropriated and, along with their residents, they were annexed to the area controlled by the slaves—the imposed rulers on Kuwait—and thousands of donums of agricultural lands affiliated with the Safwan subdistrict. Each of the farms, which belong to 85 peasant families, is between 50 and 140 donums. Those farmers and their ancestors have been planting these lands for hundreds of years.

These protest demonstrations were witnessed by correspondents of news agencies, press, and Arab and foreign television networks in Iraq. The lofty Iraqis shouted slogans of love for the great Iraq and its sacred lands, expressing their rally around the historic leadership of President Saddam Husayn and rejecting any compensation, regardless of its source. The lofty Iraqis reiterated their pride in their lands, which they inherited from their ancestors.

The sons of the Umm Qasr subdistrict expressed their rejection of the methods of usurpation and condemned the colonialist countries' exploitation of the United Nations as a cover to implement their criminal plots against Iraq.

The correspondents of the Arab and foreign television networks witnessed the shovels and machinery digging a trench in Safwan farms thus destroying the plants and the irrigation networks surrounding them.

The farmers assembled in the area and tried to confront the vehicles and shovels, which fled, frightened by the popular demonstrations. The farmers chased the vehicles and shovels on the farms while raising photos of the leader, clubs, and plastic water tubes. The farmers then filled up parts of the trench with earth while shouting: We will chop the hand of anyone who encroaches on our border. The farmers also placed the Iraqi banner over one of the hills created by the digging work.

Pro-Regime Rally Reported in Marshes

JN1611211293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Correspondents of Arab and international news agencies, television networks, and newspapers accredited in Baghdad have visited the marshes area in the Governorate of Maysan. Correspondents from REUTERS; REUTERS Television; AFP; XINHUA; the Spanish News Agency; WCM Television Network; the Jordanian newspapers SAWT AL-SHA'B, AL-DUSTUR, and SHIHAN; along with an INA delegate and an AP photographer acquainted themselves with the situation of the citizens residing in the al-Huwayzah marshes in the governorate.

The sons of the marshes chanted songs expressing their love for rallying around the wise leadership of mujahid President Saddam Husayn, as well as their gratitude to his excellency for his care for them in order to provide means of decent and honorable living for them. They also stressed their absolute readiness to defend great Iraq and to foil all the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies against the unity of Iraq's sons and their present and future. They also denounced the unjust blockade, which the forces of evil and aggression are imposing on the sons of the mujahid in violation of all norms and heavenly and earthly laws.

The INA delegate said that the sons of the marshes explained to the correspondents that they have been repeatedly exposed to provocative actions by some elements infiltrating from Iran to commit aggression against them and urged them to explain their situation to the world public opinion to expose the falsehood of Iran's rulers, who harm the neighborly relations and other people's freedom, and to urge these rulers to refrain from these practices, which are viewed as a flagrant aggression against unarmed citizens. They also stressed the need to expose and condemn the false allegation being disseminated by the hostile media agencies, which are aimed at splitting the Iraqis' unity and creating sedition among them, stressing that they live in normal circumstances and stability.

In statements to the correspondents, they urged the international organizations to end the crime of the continued blockade being imposed by the states of the Western alliance under the UN umbrella and to expose their suspected goals, which have become a disgrace for humanity.

Maysan Governor Kamil Sajit 'Aziz met with the delegation representing the Arab and foreign television networks, news agencies, newspapers, and magazines that are currently visiting the governorate to acquaint itself with the normal life in the Iraqi southern marshes. During the meeting, which was also attended by the secretary of the Maysan Ba'th Party branch, he reviewed the history of the governorate and the development it has witnessed under the canopy of the glorious 17-30 July revolution, the damage caused during the unjust 30-state

aggression on Iraq, and construction campaign to eliminate the results of the aggression that affected the governorate's civilian and cultural institutions

Economic Talks With Vietnam Open in Baghdad

JN1511202593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Meetings of the joint Iraqi-Vietnamese committee for trade, economic, and technical cooperation started in Baghdad today. The Iraqi team to the talks was led by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, while the Vietnamese side was led by Finance Minister Ho Te.

Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih spoke at the start of the meeting, stressing Iraq's desire to improve the ties of friendship and cooperation with Vietnam for the benefit of both countries.

The visiting minister conveyed greetings from the Vietnamese people to the Iraqi people and praised the Iraqis' effort to rebuild what was destroyed by the aggression and their steadfastness in the face of the blockade imposed on them.

The two sides discussed an agenda that included a review and an assessment of the results achieved in implementing the minutes of the fifth session of the joint committee, the prospects for future cooperation, and means to improve and diversify trade between the two friendly countries.

Al-Sahhaf Receives Ho Te

JN1611204493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf this evening, 16 November, received Ho Te, the Vietnamese finance minister and head of the Vietnamese side in the joint Iraqi-Vietnamese committee.

The two ministers discussed bilateral ties and prospects for their development to benefit the interests of the two friendly peoples.

The Vietnamese minister praised the enormous efforts exerted by the stalwart Iraqis to rebuild what was destroyed by the evil ones in their 30-state aggression against Iraq and its people.

The meeting was attended by the acting head of the Foreign Ministry's Second Political Department and the Vietnamese ambassador in Baghdad.

Foreign Ministry Deplores Resolution Against Libya

JN1611132193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—Iraq has denounced a Security Council resolution tightening the embargo against Libya, considering this resolution a reflection of the control of a group of powerful nations over the international organization's decisionmaking.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told INA these powerful nations adopted several resolutions against Libya to achieve suspect political aims. The spokesman said the pretexts advanced to justify these resolutions are merely a cover to achieve illegitimate, aggressive political objectives.

The spokesman added: The resolutions are symptomatic of the situation suffered by the international community, namely, the control of a group of powerful nations over the Security Council resolutions and their using these resolutions as a tool to achieve their colonialist political and economic objectives.

The spokesman deplored the aggressive policies of this group of nations, saying they adopt double standards and selectivity when responding to world developments and dealing with other countries. The spokesman cited the three-year-old blockade against the people of Iraq, noting that the use of false pretexts to maintain it reflects this situation.

The spokesman added that the international situation will not be rectified and world nations will not rest assured until the unjust embargo against Iraq and Libya is lifted and this illegitimate use of the Security Council resolution is over. The spokesman expressed the sympathy of the people of Iraq with the fraternal Libyan people in the face of the threats and embargo.

Saddam Congratulates Jordan's Husayn on Birthday

JN1411131693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Nov 93

["Text" of cable of congratulations from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Jordan's King Husayn; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

His Majesty brother King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. On the the occasion of your birthday, I am pleased to send to you warmest congratulations, wishing you personally continued health and happiness, and the fraternal Jordanian people further progress, elevation, and prosperity.

With my best wishes for well-being and success.

May peace be upon you.

[signed] Your brother, Saddam Husayn

Saddam Chairs Armed Forces General Command Meeting

JN1511183693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn [no military rank as received], commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command.

Patriotic Front Urges Lifting of 'Unjust' Blockade

JN1311181393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—The National Progressive and Patriotic Front [NPPF] has urged world political and social forces to denounce the hostile propaganda campaigns that seek to maintain the unjust blockade imposed on the people of Iraq under the pretext of human rights, and the unfounded and fabricated allegations that serve suspect colonialist political ends.

In a statement addressed to these forces, the NPPF stressed that the Iraqi people in the north and south are one people united behind the banner of President Saddam Husayn. They are facing these false colonialist allegations with cohesion, civilized awakening, and steadfastness against the unjust land, air, and sea blockade that has been imposed on 18 million people for more than three years.

The statement also says that the blockade is a violation of human rights, UN charters and laws, and heavenly messages.

The NPPF urged the world's political and social forces to denounce these hostile propaganda campaigns against awakening Iraq and to raise their voices against the unjust blockade imposed by the United States and its allies. The NPPF notes that these evil states' determination to maintain the blockade represent a U.S.- Atlantic-Zionist decision that seeks conspiratorial political ends against Iraq and the Arab nation.

New List of Permitted Imports Published

JN1411173993 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Nov 93 p 5

["New" list of commodities that can be imported without foreign exchange transaction, and which "according to the Cabinet decision, are exempted from the Law on Customs and Tariffs"; words in boldface are in colloquial Iraqi Arabic]

[Text]1. Foodstuffs:
Packaged coffee, acetic acid, alcoholic drinks except beer, scents, attars, dried lemon, tobaccos.
2. Accessories and hand tools:
Accessories to MAG and gas welding; oxygen regulators; various winches for cars and vehicles; key cutting machines; body-repair jacks; weight and measurement instruments; metal and ribbon measuring tapes; various aV meters and air gauge instruments; oxygen **sondat**; tire removing machines; concrete and timber **barayin**; garage tools and machines; welding rods; welding solders; stones for electric flying grinders; protective eyeglasses; rectangular tinted glass; tonuge pliers; tire pressure gauges; building platform balance; **days buri**; various kinds of **sbayn**; metal and carpenters **qalawozat**, saws, awls, and files; **balaysat**; **mankanah**; and **turnah** diamaonds; tile cutters; wires; plumping tools; carpenters **randat**; blacksmith anvils; wheel alignment and balance equipment; **daranfisat**; battery acid testing machines; metal and wood shaping machines; automatic saws; manual cleaning carts and their accessories; low-level gas regulators;
3. Machines, equipment, and cars:
Starters; submergible pumps; boat engines; stationary cranes; soil vibrators and compactors; electric elevators and accessories; brake pins; gasket rolls and layers; isolating papers and rolls; belt ribbons and buckles; medals and key hanger making machines; typewriters with offset; metal ropes, hydraulic **sundat**; tanks loaded on a vehicle; in-situ concrete pumping machines; book making machines; ice making machines; pin making machines; fire extinguishers; machines for printing on metal; ambulances; refrigerated cars; electric presses; machines for engraving on metal and plastic; cash counting machines; thermal press to engrave book covers; and air compressors.
4. Spare parts:
Spare parts for salon and production cars;, spare parts for motorcycles and bicycles; spare parts for machines and equipment; spare parts for home appliances; luggage racks; spark plugs; and brake oil.
5. Iron and wood: Galvanized wire, **dixan**, barbed wire, bamboo stems, **hirab**.
6. Construction material: fiberglass, **Farfuri** floor sheets, **ahin** cover, sandpaper, acrylic and plastic sheets, tinted and reflecting glass, tinting brushes, rock wool, bathroom tiling and rods and their accessories, and tissue-dispenser rods.
7. Household materials: **Khawliyyat** towels, bed linen, bed sheets, knives, spoons and forks, glass and ceramic food bowls, manual meat grinders, weaving **amyal**, razor blades, scissors of all types, small-framed mirrors, shaving utensils, shaving brushes and cream, tooth brushes and paste, shoe polish, baby shoes, small brass locks, **narmadat**, **qafis**, **buri kantur**, beds, household sewing machines, **ghatrah**, and **yashmagh**.
8. Office equipment: Identity card lamination equipment, copying machines, typewriters, transparent paper printing machines, pocket and office calculators, **altarafiyah** machines, cash registers, printing and offset machines, lithographic machines, stamping machines, printing **tahassus** machines, continuous calculator paper, pencils and crayons, sharpeners, erasers, pens and ballpoint pens, wax, oil, and water colors; punchers, pins, clips masking and scotch tape, scissors for students, file strings, stamp wax, carbon and stencil paper, glue, box files, ink, envelopes, rulers, geometry sets, ink sets, T squares, triangles, drawing boards, plastic curves,

mechanical pens, paper cutters, cigarette rolling paper, magnetic erasers, small **masahif**, artists equipment and polishing material, notebooks, writing, printing, drawing and tracing paper; bookbinding machines, correspondence paper and envelopes, educational aides, and crayons for artists and students.
9. Agricultural equipment and materials: **Faddan Khumasi**, **Kharmashah**, grafting knives, lopping scissors, sickles, and **jamjah**.
10. Agricultural materials and equipment:

(The agriculture and irrigation sector)

Machine, car, and truck spare parts.
11. Pharmaceutical and medical material: Baby bibs and diaper pins, and contraceptives.
12. Tourist-related materials: All have been dropped.
13. Tires and batteries.
Car tires and pipes; machine tires and pipes; cycle tires and pipes; tire repair parts and pastes; liquid and dry batteries (only small and nine-volt size)
14. Professional equipment:
Sewing and saddlery accessories; maintenance equipment.
15. Industries, photography, and lenses:
Spare parts for watches; medical frames; medical lenses; frame repairing machines; lens testing, repairing, and polishing machines; photographic film and paper; photographic chemicals; movie films; and watch straps.
16. Cloth and clothing:
Clothing for 12-year-olds; men's and women's underwear; industrial leather; and all types of rope.
17. Electric machinery: Oil lanterns and oil and gas torches; industrial sewing machines and tools; operating materials; electronic bells; office equipment spare parts; audio cassettes; chandelier bulbs; fluorescent **juk**; oil **julah**; gas and oil stoves; all types of heaters; car antennas; electric normal and spray pressers; fans; hair dryers; auto and home alarm systems; personal computers.
18. Furniture: all types have been dropped.

Appendix No. 3 [as published]: Moisture resistant and antifreeze agents, freon gas, varnish, pastes, calcium carbide, tin, **elithhabon**, talcum powder, antidandruff agents, antirust agents, paint, thinner, stain remover, copper sulfate, engine cleaners, drain cleaners, **damluk**, glass putty, ammonium chloride, refractory glass materials, butter, high-yield barley, flour, untanned leather not including fur, natural rubber, acid oils, waxed acids, vegetable and animal wax, organic chemicals, yeast, phenol alcohol, inorganic chemicals, oxides, certain forms of wood, raw phellem and its waste, paper and paper pulp, fabricated diamonds, refractory paste, chalk, earthen boards, coarse hair for cushion manufacture, resins and raw materials for dye manufacturing, plant-related materials used in construction including bamboo, distilled fuel (**gas naftazit**), starches, enol, wood tar, rubber-related materials, hardened and ordinary wood for pencils and tools, scissors, molds for shoes, paper for printing or writing in sheets or layers, fiber sheets, waxed and glossy and lined paper, colored fabrics, cloth stuffing material, insulating and refractory clay, sandpaper and mica and related materials, graphite paper, watch glass, bottles and glassware, asbestos wicks, ceramic materials, glass boxes for electric lamps, and glass for medical and sunglasses.
Bolts, padlocks, keys, fittings for furniture and doors, non-wire iron or steel bars, types of fence posts and **saqiyah**, iron or steel sheets, iron or steel goods, iron or steel wires, pipes, iron fixtures, copper and its blend, copper and aluminum work bars and their blend, tin sheets and discs, aluminum pipes and bars, carbon-coated wires and metals, articles made of other metals, raw tin and its blend, barrels, tin cans, gas cylinders, ropes, aluminum fiber, iron fiber and ropes, sanitary plastic articles, paper pressing tools, ordinary metal files, pen and ballpoint pen spare parts, brushes made of various plants, sleeve press buttons, toothed weaving equipment, stuffing cushions, clothing, gauge and control machines and equipment, test equipment, photography chemicals, photographic film, sensitive sheets, electric gauge equipment, eliminating lamps, lantern pipes, incandescent lights and their spare parts made of ordinary metals, composite and noncomposite visual fixtures, lenses and frames, nonvideo photography equipment, and nonelectric meters.

Fire Exchanged With Hizballah Forces in South Lebanon

Lubrani on 'Intensive' Hizballah Attack

TA1611164193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities, by Uri Paz and Pnina Bat-Tzvi in Lebanon on 16 November—recorded]

[Text] [Paz] Security sources assess that today's events in south Lebanon constitute a Syrian message to Clinton and Rabin. Do you believe this message received an attentive ear and that now al-Asad will feature in a more prominent place on our political agenda and will not be pushed behind the Palestinians and Jordan?

[Lubrani] I do not believe that Israel is impressed by such messages. We know that Syria is trying to remind us of its existence and its ability to activate terror against the security zone and Israel. We have dealt with such situations in the past and will continue to do so.

[Bat-Tzvi] Syria's timing seems to be somewhat unfortunate. Just yesterday we heard that Secretary of State Christopher will return to the region soon, while this morning katyushas were fired. Syria seems to be signalling it is still in the area.

[Lubrani] This morning's incident is certainly exceptional, but we are facing constant activity against the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Today's attack was indeed very intensive. Our own actions are aimed at safeguarding our present deployment in order to enter the peace talks from our present position of strength.

[Paz] This time, however, the attack was particularly severe. Is this a hint of things to come? Will we have to take the Syrians into consideration in order not to fall into another wave of terrorism and katyushas in the north?

[Lubrani] We are constantly taking the Syrian dimension into consideration. I have no doubt that Syria is involved in the events. This is not the first time this has happened—it is an ongoing situation. We have to remember that this is the same Syria trying to remove its name from the list of terror-supporting countries.

[Bat-Tzvi] Is it known for sure that Fatah activists were not involved in today's the katyusha attack?

[Lubrani] No, nothing is known for sure at this point. The issue is still being examined and investigated. We only know that one outpost was overtaken and 12 prisoners taken prisoners.

[Bat-Tzvi] Today's attack constitutes a blatant violation of the cease-fire agreement achieved in the wake of Operation Accountability. How does Israel intend to react to this?

[Lubrani] No, no. First, there was no agreement—only understandings. The main understanding stipulated that no more katyushas will fall on Galilee settlements. To the best of my knowledge no katyushas fell today on Galilee settlements.

[Paz] But they fell not far from these settlements.

[Lubrani] Far or not—the understanding relates to the firing of katyushas at settlements located within Israeli territory, and this did not happen today.

[Paz] Will Israel consider itself free from these understandings in the wake of today's events?

[Lubrani] I do not want to tell you what Israel will do, but let me tell you that this understanding is still in force.

[Bat-Tzvi] What effects will today's katyusha attack have on Christopher's visit in our region?

[Lubrani] I do not think it will have any impact. I believe the United States is very familiar with Syria's methods—which have been used in the past and repeated today. We have an ongoing problem and we must deal with it so that we will be able to negotiate with Syria from a position which has not been undermined.

[Paz] How can you explain the fact that 10 SLA soldiers were taken prisoners? Did they surrender without battle?

[Lubrani] I told you that we are still investigating this incident, and I do not want to say anything at this point.

[Paz] Following this Hizballah attack on south Lebanon, did Israel convey any message to the Syrians via the United States, warning it that this cannot go on?

[Lubrani] I am not aware of any such message.

[Paz] Thank you very much, Uri Lubrani.

Israeli Air Force Raids Hizballah Targets

TA1611153293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Israel Air Force [IAF] planes this afternoon raided terrorist targets of the Hizballah organizations in the Lebanese al-Biqa'. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported that all the targets were hit and all the planes returned safely to their bases. The targets hit were Hizballah training bases and sites from which terror attacks were launched.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the attacked area is under Syrian control, and it appears that the IAF raid was also aimed at delivering a message to Syria, under the auspices of which Hizballah operates.

Lebanese sources told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that many terrorists were hurt in the IAF raid. Hizballah announced that one of its warriors was killed and another wounded. News agencies report that four IAF planes fired eight air-to-surface missiles at a Hizballah

radio station and at a base of the organization outside the township of Ba'labakk in the Lebanese al-Biqa'.

Sporadic fire is being exchanged in Lebanon at this time as well. Two IDF soldiers were injured in this morning's incidents. They were hospitalized in the Zefat Hospital in fair condition.

Syrian Policy on Hizballah 'Unacceptable'

TA1611175293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 nov 93

[Text] As the night falls, the fire exchange that continued all afternoon in the security zone in south Lebanon between Hizballah, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] is gradually subsiding. All the targeted terrorist sites were hit by the Air Force raid this afternoon, and all the planes returned safely. The attack took place in a region controlled by the Syrians, and Lebanese sources say that many terrorists were hurt in the attack.

Military sources said this evening that, since Operation Accountability and the signing of the agreement with the PLO, cooperation between Hizballah and terror organizations which do not support the agreement has expanded. The IDF unit arrived on the site of this morning's incident [in which 12 SLA soldiers were reportedly taken captive] some two and a half hours after the event. The SLA soldiers who manned the post were all Shiites. The incident is considered irregular, and will be carefully examined.

The military sources said that Syria's policy has not changed and it is still allows Hizballah freedom of operation. From Israel's point of view, such a state of affairs during an ongoing political process is unacceptable.

Commander: Hizballah Attack 'Grave'

NC1711091993 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the northern command in Israel, has said the Israeli Defense Forces and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] see the Tallusah incident as very grave and believe necessary lessons will be learned. He added that the SLA will pursue its task irrespective of events and will continue to ensure the security of the people in the border area. Mordekhay said the border zone has proved its usefulness. It was no coincidence, he said, that Hizballah chose a target near an area inhabited by Shiites. He pointed out that the Israeli army will also respond to future Hizballah attacks.

Mordekhay discussed events in the south yesterday with Israeli and SLA commanders in the border zone in light of yesterday's terrorist attack against the SLA position in Tallusah.

Peres on Situation in Lebanon, Territories

TA1711082993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Karmit Gay—live]

[Text] [Gay] Mr. Peres, in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said that Israel is responsible for the escalation and tension in south Lebanon. What is your reaction to this accusation?

[Peres] The answer is very simple. We know that the Lebanese Government wants to deploy a very strong Lebanese Army force in south Lebanon—some 2,000-3,000 strong—but Syria will not permit this. We also know they considered disarming Hizballah, but Syria did not allow them to do this. There are still 10 rejectionist organizations on Syrian soil which act against us. Consequently we reject these claims.

[Gay] Is this the price we have to pay for telling the Syrians to sit on the sidelines and wait until we finish our business with the Palestinians?

[Peres] We did not say this. Had the Syrians agreed to be more explicit and detailed on the issue of peace, had they agreed to hold comprehensive negotiations—including on security issues—they would have had no reason to think anybody told them to sit and wait.

[Gay] But this is what they are saying.

[Peres] Look, they are obviously looking for excuses which will justify their position. Their representative in Washington, however, evinced an extremely inflexible and tough stand. We regret this, because we are interested in reaching a comprehensive peace with all the countries. We do not want to leave enclaves of war in the heart of the Middle East, because in our opinion we should establish a new Middle East built on peace and cooperation.

[Gay] Is it possible to achieve progress on all the tracks simultaneously?

[Peres] It is possible to make simultaneous progress on all the tracks without any track being tied to another. Imagine if Egypt would have refused to make peace with us until Syria also agreed. In that case we would not have had peace with Egypt for the last 15 years. The same holds true for the Palestinians. We agree to hold negotiations with each party individually without any track being dependent on the other, because such a dependency would give the right of veto to the most obdurate party in the peace process.

[Gay] Yesterday, as acting prime minister, you ordered the police minister and the chief of staff to reinforce the security forces in order to preserve law and order in the territories. I assume this refers both to the Palestinian population and the Jewish settlers. I want to speak

mainly about the settlers. One has a feeling that both sides are entrenched in their own positions. The only voices the settlers hear from the direction of the government are warnings against taking the law into their own hands. Little effort is exerted to start a dialogue with them. Maybe the time has come to speak with them.

[Peres] We have no problem talking with the settlers. We will gladly launch a dialogue with them. We have not only told them not to take the law into their own hands. We also told them that we are responsible for their security. We have to remember that even before the peace process started Israel was not exactly heaven on earth. At that time too we unfortunately had cases of stabbings and murders. The difference is that whereas then there was only danger, now there is also a chance. However, we certainly regard ourselves responsible for the personal and collective security of all the settlers in the territories.

[Gay] The settlers claim that the government is abandoning them.

[Peres] I do not know what the basis of this claim is, because we have beefed up our forces in all the territories. We cannot know beforehand who will be a potential knife wielder. Many of the attacks are random. We know that one organization, namely Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], is dealing in terrorism on an organized basis, and we are implementing all the necessary measures against this organization. Unfortunately, no government in any place in the world can provide hermetic security. The government and the security forces, however, are doing everything possible, and we do regard ourselves as responsible for security.

[Gay] Did you say that the security forces will be reinforced in order to preserve law and order in the territories?

[Peres] Yes. Look, where will things end if everybody takes the law into their own hands? We are defending both the country and democracy. In my opinion we are able to defend the country precisely because we are a democracy, and a democracy is based on the rule of law and a respect for the decisions of the majority.

[Gay] How far will you go in enforcing the law?

[Peres] We will go as far as it takes to defend not only the citizens and the country, but democracy itself.

[Gay] Thank you very much, Minister Peres.

Peres: No Proof of 'Direct Syrian Involvement'

TA1711122193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Nov 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Hemi Shalev, and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] Last night the foreign minister's bureau issued an extraordinary statement saying that according to defense sources, "there is no evidence of direct Syrian involvement" in yesterday's attacks in south Lebanon, although "we cannot overlook the fact that Syria could have taken action in this respect had it so wished."

The bureau's statement was issued in the wake of yesterday's contacts between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in his capacity as acting prime minister, and defense elements. Its contents contradict remarks of Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur and other defense figures reported by the media yesterday.

In reply to a question, the bureau stated that in view of the absence of proof of Syrian involvement, no message had been relayed to Syria through the United States or any other channel. [passage omitted]

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] last night started exploring the possibility that some of the Hizballah troops who attacked the Tallusah position yesterday, capturing 12 SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers, were Iranians who joined Hizballah in Lebanon. A defense establishment figure revealed last night that a preliminary interrogation of Tallusah soldiers who had been captured, including the outpost commander who hid in a storeroom, revealed that some terrorists who raided the outpost spoke an Iranian dialect.

A senior Army source said last night that for some time now Israel has been receiving information indicating that Iran has been sending combat troops to join Hizballah in Lebanon, but yesterday was the first time these men actually participated in an attack on an SLA position. He estimated that Hizballah has received several dozen Iranians, whose duties include training and induction. [passage omitted]

Violence, Settlers' Riots Continue in Territories

Rabin Calls Settlers' Acts 'Unlawful'

TA1611172393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Report from Washington by Arye Golan—live]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening made a very special appearance. This was the first time an Israeli prime minister met a group of dozens reporters, including many Arab reporters. The meeting was also attended by several diplomats from Arab embassies in Washington. This was also one of Rabin's last public appearances during his current visit here.

Many of the questions dealt with events in Israel, the daily murderous Palestinian violence and the following settlers' riots. Do the Israeli security forces do enough to stop this? The prime minister was asked by an Arab reporter. Here is the answer:

[Begin Rabin recording in English] I cannot say that we succeeded to prevent assassinations by extreme Palestinian terror groups of Israelis, and I cannot say that we have succeeded always to control reactions by the settlers

to these assassinations. We will try our best and we will continue to make effort to cope with the terror, with the assassinations, and with the reactions to them that are unlawful, against the law. [end recording]

Mr. Rabin described the settlers' reactions as illegal, and told the reporters that the situation is delicate. We have not begun implementing the agreement signed with the PLO. As we heard, Mr. Rabin admitted that so far Israel has not managed to prevent murderous attacks by Palestinian terrorists, as well as the unlawful reactions of the settlers.

Later this evening, the prime minister will address the National Press Club. He has several meetings scheduled on Capitol Hill. Later, according to his current schedule, he will fly to Canada. In Ottawa he will meet the new Canadian prime minister, and in Montreal he will speak Thursday [18 November] night before the annual convention of the Jewish federations.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 16 November, in a related report, adds the following: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that if the Lebanese Government disarms Hizballah, deploys in south Lebanon, and proves it can preserve calm and prevent attacks against Israel for a period of six months, Israel will withdraw from south Lebanon." The report adds: "The prime minister emphasized the need to create a secret track for the talks with Syria."] [Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 16 November carries a brief interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, recorded in Hebrew in Washington on 16 November, in which he says: "Along with the negotiations between ourselves and the Palestinians, the PLO, regarding the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, it is essential to revive the negotiations with the rest of our Arab interlocutors: Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. That is why I believe the coming Middle East tour by the U.S. secretary of state is important. It is needed to put the moves with the other Arab partners back on track." He further says that "moves, including the visit by the secretary of state, are needed to promote the Israeli-Jordanian negotiations."]

IDF Officer Stoned by Settlers

TA1711091993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 nov 93

[Excerpts] In the territories yesterday, the terrorist who was shot and killed after stabbing a policeman in the Gaza Strip has been identified as an 18-year-old Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist from the al-Burayj refugee camp.

In the West Bank town of al-Birah yesterday afternoon there were riots following an incident in which a stone thrower was killed by Army fire. And in Hebron the Army spokesman says an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer was injured by a rock thrown by settlers. Mark Weiss reports: [passage omitted]

In al-Birah dozens of Palestinian youths rioted following the killing of school pupil, 17-year-old Rami al-Rizali, by soldiers' gunfire. Another pupil was wounded in the incident, which occurred when troops opened fire to restore order during stone throwing from inside the school. In response, angry Palestinian youths threw rocks at Israeli cars on the al-Birah-Ramallah road.

And in the center of Ramallah, a border policeman was injured by a rock and treated by an Army doctor.

According to the IDF spokesman, an Army officer was hit in the head by a rock thrown by a Jewish resident during a riot by settlers in Hebron. The officer was treated by an Army doctor and the police are investigating the incident. Settlers in Hebron deny the Army version of the incident, claiming the rock was thrown by an Arab.

Peres Orders More Troops Against Rioters

TA1711054593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, now acting prime minister, has ordered police and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to send reinforcements to the territories to prevent disturbances by both Palestinians and Jewish settlers. Peres told a Qol Yisra'el reporter that it was forbidden for the settlers to take the law into their own hands. Anyone who riots on either side, he said, will be brought to trial.

Last night, the new Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir said the behavior of Jewish settlers in Hebron, as well as in other areas of the territories, was extremely serious and represented a blatant violation of the law. He said security forces, along with other government bodies, were now working to enforce the law in the territories.

Peres: Events Not To Disrupt Peace Process

TA1711122493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Report by Tali Katzenelson]

[Text] Even as he stands, flushed with excitement, next to the Cypriot foreign minister—after all, new diplomatic agreements are not a routine occurrence—reporters' questions take Foreign Minister Peres back to a grim reality. Our foreign minister admits: True, the territories are not quiet, but this fact will not disrupt the peace process. We will not allow it.

[Begin Peres recording] We will not lose control of events. The events are very painful, very unsettling, but we will resort to every recourse—and we do have those—to meet this new spate of events and rioting head on. Nothing will hamper the process. We will vigorously pursue the process. We knew this process would have to pass through a corridor strewn with countless difficulties

and inflamed passions, both positive and negative. It is natural that we should have this passage to cope with. [end recording]

Peres added: Contrary to reports, I did not instruct the security forces to take firm action vis-a-vis the settlers. The Army and the police have excellent instincts of their own, and they will allow no one to violate the law and go unpunished.

As for another area of tension, Peres said: We have no evidence that Syria was directly involved in the attacks north of our border. True enough, they have made no attempt to curb Hizballah, but that is another story. We will continue trying to achieve peace.

Rabin on Fighting Terror, Syria, Nuclear Arms

TA1611211793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that there is no contradiction between the continuing negotiations with the Palestinians and fighting terrorists who want to harm the peace process by preventing the implementation of the agreement with the PLO. The two complement each other, he said.

Speaking before the National Press Club in Washington today, the prime minister said that Israel and Syria share a strategic interest in attaining peace between them. At the same time, he wonders why does Syria not support the agreement between Israel and the PLO, and why does it allow the rejectionist organizations freedom of action and provide them with aid. Why does Syria help Hizballah attack our forces, the prime minister asked. He mentioned the threats Ahmad Jibril had made on 'Arafat's life on Syrian media. Syria must prove it supports a decision by any Arab party to reach an agreement with us, he said, and not do the opposite.

Speaking on the issue of nuclear arms, Mr. Rabin said that we will not be the first to introduce nuclear arms into the Arab-Israeli conflict. We are, however, ready to make the Middle East a nuclear-free area. We are also willing to sign reciprocal agreements, provided that the Muslim countries with an interest in the issue sign them with us. Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan reported the prime minister's remarks.

Fatah-Affiliated 'Terrorist Ring' Uncovered

TA1711054393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] The security forces have uncovered a terrorist ring operating from two villages north of Jerusalem, three of whose members belong to Fatah. The members are suspected in the murder of two Jerusalem youths Li'or Tubol and Ronen Karamani, taxi driver Rafi Abramov-Doron, and soldier Yehoshu'a Friedberg.

The investigation has revealed that the goal of the terrorists was to kidnap and murder Israelis.

Agreement To Aid Turkey in Fight Against PKK Denied

TA1411145293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Nov 93 p A6

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] Yesterday evening, on the eve of the Turkish foreign minister's visit to Israel, senior political sources expressed their displeasure with Turkey's attempt to involve Israel in its struggle against the Kurdish rebels. The sources clarified that Israel has no intention of fighting the Kurds.

The sources expressed astonishment over statements issued at the most senior levels in Ankara and over planted press reports about Israel's alleged agreement to aid the Turkish authorities in their struggle against the Kurdish underground, the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan]. "We would be very happy to cooperate in all sorts of fields but not in a war against the Kurds. They are not our enemy," the sources said.

The sources clarified that Israel would not cooperate with Turkey against Syria, although Jerusalem is willing to act together with Turkey against Iran on the intelligence level. "Israel will cooperate with any element that adopts the United States' 'dual containment' policy against Iran and Iraq," the sources said.

The sources revealed that Turkey has recently sought a rapid improvement in its relations with Israel, especially after the agreement between the PLO and Israel was signed. The main reason for this, the sources said, is Turkey's disappointment over the failure of its attempts to establish a sphere of influence in the southern republics of the former Soviet Union and its desire to create an alternative sphere of influence in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Turkish Foreign Minister Cetin Pays Official Visit

Peres: Visit of 'Unprecedented Nature'

TA1411092593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin arrived in Israel last night for a 3-day official visit, the first ever by a Turkish foreign minister to Israel. He is to have talks with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and other officials. During the visit, a number of agreements will be signed, most of them economic. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres welcomed his Turkish counterpart. The two men spoke at a welcoming ceremony:

[Begin recording] [Peres] In many ways, it is a visit of an unprecedented nature. I think it is the first time that we are having a cabinet minister of Turkey, the foreign minister, visiting Israel.

[Cetin] The importance of this visit is further highlighted by the fundamental changes taking place in our region. [end recording]

Memorandum of Understanding Signed

TA1411170493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] A memorandum of understanding between Turkey and Israel was signed this evening. The document was signed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports.

[Begin recording] [Segal] Good evening. The signing ceremony of the memorandum of understanding between Turkey and Israel ended a short while ago. This is the first written document between Turkey and Israel. The document was signed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Turkish counterpart, Hikmet Cetin. The atmosphere at the meeting between the two men was cordial. The memorandum of understanding compromises 12 clauses, mainly economic agreements now that tourism and aviation agreements have already been signed. The two men also signed a cultural agreement. The memorandum of understanding also includes a clause stipulating that both countries will examine the possibility of a free trade agreement between Turkey and Israel. After the agreement was signed, we asked Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres whether he can already announce the establishment of a free trade zone between Turkey and Israel.

[Peres] We agreed to establish a joint working group in order to attain this goal. The problem is that each country already has agreements with other countries, and one has to make sure that any additional agreement does not contravene existing ones; however, I believe we have a good chance of implementing this.

[Segal] I would like to ask you one question about today's cabinet session. Security officials briefed the ministers on the possibility of additional attacks by other individuals from within the Fatah organization. How do the authorities intend to act in light of this information?

[Peres] Look, the security forces are constantly monitoring all possibilities of hostile activity by any organization. This high level of alertness will be maintained continuously.

[Segal] The two foreign ministers also discussed security issues. Turkey has tense relations with Syria, as well as problems with the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan]. The two men confirmed that they had discussed security issues; however, they told correspondents that they had not dealt with specific issues but rather with security cooperation in light of the changing situation in the region. It should be stressed that this is the first visit of a Turkish foreign minister since the times of Ottoman rule. The Turkish foreign minister arrived yesterday on an official visit. He will spend another day in Israel and then fly home. [end recording]

Cetin, Harish Discuss Trade

TA1411200693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] The visiting Turkish foreign minister and Israel's minister of industry and commerce, Mikha Harish, expect to sign an agreement to prevent double taxation and to guarantee investments. At a meeting in Jerusalem this afternoon, the Turkish minister also suggested creating a free trade area between the two countries. He also stressed the importance of the peace process.

[Begin Cetin recording] I have said Turkey, since the beginning, contributed to the peace process in this region, and now I think that peace is irreversible. One way or another, we have to continue this peace. We will not reach a very idealistic solution very soon, but the things are moving and are irreversible. It is not easy things, but I think it will continue. Turkey, from her part, we will do our best to contribute.

I think our trade relations, if we take into account the potential of the two countries, is very small. We must do more, we should have very high, much more higher trade between two countries. We must have bilateral economic relations and investment jointly in two countries and working together in 12 countries. One of those areas can be Central Asia and the former Soviet Union. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 14 November carries a report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, who adds: "Iran, a neighbor hostile to both Turkey and Israel, featured prominently in today's closed session between Cetin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Still, a more urgent internal threat to Turkey is the Kurdish underground movement. Foreign Minister Cetin asked for Israel's cooperation in fighting terror, and Peres delicately told him that, at this point, political cooperation will not include fighting terror. Deep inside, Peres probably thought we have enough problems of our own and do not need one more."]

Fighting Spread of Fundamentalism Agreed

TA1511122293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Nov 93 p A5

[Report by Hemi Shalev and ITIM]

[Excerpts] Israel and Turkey will cooperate in fighting the spread of Islamic fundamentalism and hold intelligence consultations about Iran and its influence. This was agreed upon yesterday between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Turkish counterpart in Jerusalem.

Peres praised Cetin for holding the first visit of its kind by a Turkish minister to Israel and said that from now on relations between the two countries would be on the "right track." Cetin invited Peres to visit Turkey and said that "a new chapter in relations between the two countries had begun."

Cetin explained that Turkey's struggle against terrorism were not the result of ethnic problems but rather a consequence of its "democratic and secular nature." Cetin asserted that Turkey was helping the Muslim republics out of a desire "to have them join the group of modern, secular, Islamic states led by Turkey."

Peres and Cetin agreed on joint activities in the Muslim republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States. He also proposed Turkish-Israeli cooperation in order to combat the region's desertification. [passage omitted]

Economy and Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit also met the Turkish minister yesterday in Jerusalem. The two men discussed expanding economic cooperation between the two countries and conducting joint seminars for businessmen in order to familiarize them with each country's respective economic systems.

Mr. Cetin said that a delegation of Turkish businessmen would arrive in Israel at the end of the month. He also expressed Turkey's desire to participate in the private sector and economic regional cooperation conference which will be held in Amman in March, under U.S. auspices.

Peres on Turkey's 'Crucial Role' in Region

TA1511121693 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1100 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Announcer-read report over video]

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that Turkey possesses great potentials and added that Turkey is expected to play a crucial role in the restructuring of the Middle East.

Peres organized a news conference for the Turkish journalists accompanying Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin in Jerusalem. Peres stated that Turkey can make significant contributions in many areas such as in solving the water problem of the region, in establishing infrastructure projects, in building irrigation canals, and in the area of tourism.

According to information obtained by the TRT team in Israel, Peres reiterated that the foundations of new relations had been established with Cetin's visit to Israel. Peres said that both Turkey and Israel believe that peace will be established in the Middle East sooner or later.

Peres pointed out that Turkey, where Islam and modern economy coexists, serves as a model for the rest of the Islamic world. Peres also noted that Turkey with its historical past, its geographical location, and its strategic importance, can play an important role in the restructuring of the Middle East.

Concluding his official visit to Israel today, Cetin is expected to meet with a number of Palestinian officials in East Jerusalem and visit various Jewish settlements. Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin will be returning to Turkey this evening.

Cetin Meets Palestinian Officials

TA1511161393 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1300 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Announcer-read report over still of Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin]

[Text] A joint Turkish-Palestinian committee will be established to determine the extent and use of Turkish aid to the Palestinians. Turkey will send a delegation to Tunisia to this end.

On the last day of his visit to Israel, Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin held contacts in East Jerusalem. Cetin first visited the al-Aqsa Mosque. He then met with Palestinian officials, including Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, and his deputy Sa'ib 'Urayqat. The meeting focused on ways Turkey can contribute to the peace process.

Cetin reiterated that Turkey supports the peace process launched in the Middle East, adding, however, that a difficult period awaits the region.

Cetin-al-Husayni Talks 'Constructive'

TA1511203893 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Report over video by Andac Atak in Israel]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In statements issued at the end of a meeting in East Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, described their talks as very constructive and beneficial.

Cetin expressed Turkey's support for the Middle East peace process, remarking, however, that a difficult period awaits the region. Pointing out that there is opposition to the peace process both among the Israelis and the Arabs, Cetin said: If this opposition is to be eliminated, the people must feel the positive effects of this process in their own lives. It is therefore the moral responsibility of the whole world to extend aid to this region, the foreign minister noted.

Remarking that Turkey shares common historical and cultural ties with Palestine, Cetin recalled that an education agreement was signed during Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Turkey, making it the first country to sign an agreement with the Palestinians. Cetin declared that Turkey will contribute $52 million in credits and gifts to the fund for the development of the occupied territories which will be accorded partial autonomy.

According to Cetin, the Palestinians have submitted requests to Turkey in numerous fields such as construction of infrastructure, renovation in the tourism sector, and education of personnel. Cetin announced that a decision was made to establish a joint committee to determine the areas in which Turkey's contribution to the fund will be used.

In turn, al-Husayni said that the Middle East peace process will not only resolve the Israeli-Palestinian problem, but it will also help create a new atmosphere in the entire region. He expressed the hope that the next visit will be an official one. [passage omitted]

Turkey Turns Back Armenian Planeload of Jews

TA1611112793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Last night, Turkey prevented an Armenian national carrier aircraft from crossing its airspace en route to Israel. The plane, carrying approximately 120 immigrants and another 30 Georgian Jews, returned to Tbilisi.

Our correspondent Ya'el Ben-Yehuda says that the flight's organizers had encountered difficulties in arranging matters as a result of fuel shortages.

Cypriot Health, Foreign Ministers Meet Counterparts

Health Cooperation Agreement Signed

TA1611141493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Health Minister Hayim Ramon and his Cypriot counterpart Emmanouil Khristofidhis today signed a health cooperation agreement. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports the agreement includes an important clause regarding organ transplants. Professor 'Ami Barzilay, president of the national center for organ transplants, says the agreement will make it possible to receive organs for transplant from Cyprus. This will increase the possibilities of transplants in Israel. This evening Cyprus' foreign minister will arrive on a first ever official visit to Israel, and next week Cyprus' first ambassador in Israel will present his credentials to President 'Ezer Weizman.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Arrives

TA1611212293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Cypriot Foreign Affairs Minister Alexandros Mikhailidhis arrived in Israel this evening marking the first visit of its kind. He will meet tomorrow with his counterpart, Shim'on Peres, and they will discuss economic, health, and tourism cooperation. The Cypriot health minister is currently in Israel, and an agreement has been signed allowing the supply of organs for transplants.

Mikhailidhis, Peres Sign Cooperation Accord

TA1711122793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Cypriot Foreign Minister Alexandros Mikhailidhis and his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres today signed a cooperation agreement in the field of health. Mikhailidhis is on a three-day visit to Israel, the first by a Cypriot foreign minister. Jack Katzenell reports: [Begin recording] [Katzenell] Foreign Ministry sources assure me that it was pure coincidence that the Cypriot foreign minister arrived immediately after his Turkish opposite number left. In fact, if anyone here had noticed the fact the two visits would have been moved apart to avoid embarrassment. Alexandros Mikhailidhis today expressed support for the Middle East peace process, but of course, he did not let the occasion pass without mentioning the Turkish occupation of southern Cyprus, which has lasted for 19 years:

[Mikhailidhis] It is important that the division of Cyprus must end. The occupation, the presence of Turkish troops, must end.

[Katzenell] There is a curious symmetry between the two visits. Over the years, both Turkey and Cyprus maintained rather cool relations with Israel because of their extensive relations with the Arab world and the pressure to which the Arabs subjected them. In both cases the visit was the first by the country's foreign minister to Israel. However, Mikhailidhis announced today that on the 24th of this month, Cyprus will at last appoint an ambassador to Israel, albeit nonresident. [end recording]

ROK Official Tells Peres Embassy To Open 'Soon'

TA1111185793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] South Korea says it wants closer ties with Israel. This was conveyed by South Korea's First Assistant Foreign Minister Sin Ki-pok at a meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Jerusalem today. The South Korean official said relations between the two countries have undergone a meaningful change and announced that South Korea would soon open an embassy in Israel.

Christopher Tour Reaffirms U.S. 'Commitment'

JN1611084793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Nov 93 pp 1, 34

[Editorial: "Christopher's Return to the Middle East"]

[Text] After a cessation of several months in the direct Arab- Israeli negotiations, it appears that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has decided, after all, to return to the Middle East in an effort to get the peace process restarted and seek the removal of the obstacles blocking its path.

Without a doubt, Christopher's projected visit amounts to a reaffirmation of the U.S. commitment to a full partner role in the peace process, which has ground to a virtual halt on some tracks; namely, the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Against such a background, Christopher's tour must be seen as aimed at breaking the logjam on these two tracks.

Thus, assuming Warren Christopher's upcoming tour produces a breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli track and subsequently on the Lebanese-Israeli track, such a development would mark a milestone in the search for peace in the Middle East. Movement on one track to the exclusion of others in the Arab-Israeli negotiations can hardly advance the cause of a just and comprehensive peace sought by the region's peoples and to which the United States continues to pronounce a commitment.

We are not unaware of the fact that following the signing of the declaration of principles with the Palestinians, Israel has hardened an already hard-line position on the Syrian track. Israel is in no hurry to achieve progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, since,—as Tel Aviv's argument goes—the Israeli public must first digest its accord with the PLO.

Accordingly, we view Christopher's upcoming visit as a new test of Washington's commitment to its oft-repeated public promises to work for a just and overall peace in the Middle East. This commitment will remain little more than ink on paper unless the United States plays the full partner role, and, as such, presses the Israelis into making such concession as would not only generate progress on the Syrian track, but also promote the cause of the general peace in this part of the world.

Paper Defends Pursuit of Talks With Israel

JN1111125593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11-12 Nov 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Natural course"]

[Text] Once again His Majesty King Husayn made it crystal clear during his press conference Tuesday that whereas Jordan is totally and unequivocally committed to attain comprehensive peace agreements between Israel and all the concerned Arab parties to the peace process, Amman will not stand still in its efforts to negotiate the remaining issues that still divide Jordan and Israel. It is a well- known fact that all the Arab states are busy negotiating their own respective peace bargains with the Israeli side. Jordan therefore cannot be expected to suspend its endeavours for the same goal as long as the final signature over any peace accord will be put on hold till the remaining Arab negotiating teams arrive at similar results. This is a sensible stance since what Jordan and Israel have agreed upon till now is nothing more than a consensus on the broad outline of their future relationships once peace is achieved between them. Granted the accord struck between the Jordanian and Israeli negotiating teams in Washington is an important development in its own right; but this fact will not subtract from the equally valid proposition that there is a great deal that still separates the two sides.

As the Rabin government is hurriedly exploring all avenues for peace with the PLO, Syria and Lebanon, there will come a time when these fronts will register an advanced stage in their negotiations. Unless Jordan moves also ahead with its own efforts to resolve all major outstanding conflicts with Israel, the country could very well find itself lagging way back. Still the blueprint for all the future Arab negotiating processes with Israel obviously calls for maximum coordination. Some Arab parties are clearly more advanced than the others. This is to be expected, however. The Arab negotiating teams are not holding joint and simultaneous peace talks with the Israeli side. This implies that each Arab side may pursue its own bilateral peace parleys with relative but not absolute freedom from the other Arab-Israeli peace tracks. There is in fact considerable benefit in such a strategy since Israel would be put on notice that crowning of its success on one Arab front cannot be had as long as the other tracks are held in abeyance.

The meeting between Crown Prince Hasan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the White House last month can be best viewed as part and parcel of the Jordanian negotiating strategy that would put progress in its own track in the service of the other Arab fronts.

It could not have escaped the attention of the world that the Palestinian side is moving rapidly in the direction of removing formidable hurdles in the path of their own mini-accord with Israel. Jordan is on record as having blessed the PLO's own efforts to advance its peace talks with Israel. This position is dictated by the undisputable fact that what the Palestinian side has been able to attain till now with the Israeli side is only the beginning.

Against this backdrop, we in Jordan cannot feel threatened by what the Palestinians have achieved. Likewise, no Arab side may feel threatened by any preliminary progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track. If Damascus registers meaningful progress in its own track in the upcoming weeks or month, Jordan would likewise feel unthreatened as long as the final chapters on all fronts are concluded together.

Planned Qatari Phone Link With West Bank Eyed

JN1711114793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Nov 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Keep in Touch"]

[Text] Qatar's decision to establish telephone links with the West Bank has raised eyebrows in many Arab countries that have yet to get used to the accelerated pace of developments in the Middle East region. Ostensibly the reason for Doha's bold step is to facilitate contacts between the Palestinian people dispersed all over the world, especially the Gulf region. Arab states and peoples may regard this initiative as premature "normalisation" of relations with the state of Israel at a time when the peace process has yet to be formally concluded. Others would argue that linking the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip with the other parts of the Arab World would strengthen the resolve of the Palestinian people in their struggle for independence by enhancing their channels of communications with the outside world. In pragmatic terms, isolating the Palestinians in the israeli-occupied territories from their own people in the diaspora as well as from the Arab Nation at large would only push them even further into the Israeli embrace, the last thing, strategically speaking, that would be on the Arab agenda.

There are obviously real risks in reestablishing telephone links between the occupied territories and the Arab World. There could be security risks that may undermine the stability of the Arab countries. This fear, however, may be exaggerated because telephone and facsimile contacts with the West Bank and Gaza Strip could only be made more difficult but not totally preventable. Palestinians have been calling their folks back home through the services of third parties with the full knowledge of all concerned. If there were really any security dangers present, available precautionary measures would still be used in the case of direct links.

At the current critical stage of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, it would seem infinitely more productive for the Arabs to reestablish telephone links with Palestinians under occupation than to resort to worn out complexes about such steps.

Trade Talks With Iranian Delegation Begin

JN1611182993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Economic and trade talks between Jordanian and Iran began at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce today. The Jordanian side was led by Marwan 'Awad, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and the Iranian side was led by Engineer (Mahdi al-Mufidi), Iranian deputy heavy industries minister. The conferees addressed the means to promote and enhance Jordanian- Iranian ties in the trade and economic spheres. More details are contained in the following report:

During the talks, the two sides reaffirmed the importance of increasing bilateral trade through the launching of joint investment ventures to acquaint the public in both countries with the progress made by national industries in both Jordan and Iran. The two sides expressed their unmistakable desire to promote the ties of bilateral cooperation in various technical areas, and to exchange visits to enhance the production capability of national industries.

Marwan 'Awad, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, noted the importance of enhancing bilateral economic and trade ties. He also stressed the need to activate the work of the joint Jordanian-Iranian committee so that it may hold meetings in early 1994, particularly since this committee met in 1991, not to mention the fact that the two countries have signed an agreement in this regard. He noted that the draft agreement the Iranian side presented to the Jordanian side is generally acceptable. It will be discussed by the committee formed by the two countries to clear the grounds for signing it by the Jordanian and Iranian industry ministers as soon as possible, 'Awad noted.

For his part, the head of the Iranian side to the talks congratulated Jordan on the free and honest parliamentary elections recently held in the country—elections that have been well received worldwide—saying it is something that will enable Jordan to play a prominent role on the regional and international scenes. He said that the existing cooperation between the two countries augurs well for the future of bilateral cooperation in the economic and trade spheres, particularly since Jordan enjoys a good and strong political reputation. He expressed the hope that cooperation between the two countries will be boosted.

During the talks, Khaldun Abu-Hassan, chairman of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, and Haydar Murad, deputy chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, addressed the importance of cementing bilateral ties. The working committees formed by the two sides will continue their meetings to agree on joint minutes to be signed the day after tomorrow, Thursday.

CBJ To Monitor Banking in Occupied Territories

JN1611192493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] The Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] will be authorized to implement monetary and credit policy in the occupied territories during the interim period. This has been stated by CBJ Governor Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] An economic seminar sponsored by the Society of Jordanian Businessmen has been held in response to an appeal made by His Majesty King Husayn to build a new Jordan, particularly during the phase we are currently experiencing,

namely, the phase of peace. Mamduh Abu-Hassan, chairman of the Society of Jordanian Businessmen, has urged businessmen to tackle this phase with shrewdness, discrimination, and vigilance, particularly since there is another party that cannot be overlooked. This party, he added, enjoys all kinds of material, financial, and political support.

CBJ Governor Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi has stated that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides have agreed in principle on a host of basic points governing bilateral economic cooperation. The signing of the draft agreement between the two sides will be followed by protocols and detailed agreements to address all issues that are of interest to both sides.

With regard to the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship in the monetary and banking spheres, al-Nabulsi spoke to us, saying:

[Al-Nabulsi] We, along with the Palestinian brothers, have started an evaluation process to expand the scope of bilateral cooperation and to keep the Jordanian currency in circulation in the West Bank of the River Jordan, just as it is in circulation in the East Bank. We will also seek to maintain the operation of banks there and reopen the banks that operated prior to 1967; that is, Jordanian banks. We will also work with the Palestinian brothers to set up a joint committee to coordinate the monetary and banking policy that will be pursued in the occupied territories.

From this premise, we will seek, God willing, to cement, enhance, and promote our economic ties to achieve integration and solidarity between the Palestinian and Jordanian economies.

[Reporter] What about the CBJ's role?

[Al-Nabulsi] Under the agreements reached in principle with the Palestinian brothers, the Jordanian currency will remain in circulation in the occupied territories. Moreover, the CBJ will be the party legally authorized to supervise and monitor banking operations in the territories to be subjected to self-rule. The CBJ will be a mother bank to the banks operating there. It will cater to these banks, ensure the availability of liquidity at these banks, and guarantee their sound financial standing. We will conduct supervision and inspection operations there, in cooperation and coordination with the Palestinian brothers.

[Reporter] Will these measures be implemented during the interim period only? What about long-term procedures?

[Al-Nabulsi] As a matter of fact, we are currently drawing up conceptions regarding the interim period. We are not adequately informed about future political and economic developments. This does not allow us to draw up perspectives that go beyond the interim period. Nonetheless, if we start cooperation in the interim period, I have no doubts at all that this will be a nucleus for future cooperation, God willing.

[Reporter] Thank you. [end recording]

King Denies Muslim Brotherhood Poses 'Threat'

JN1611175393 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] His majesty the king has said there will be no retreat from democracy in Jordan, as it became a fact, and not an experiment. His majesty added that democracy represents a personal commitment on his part, which he strongly believes in.

In an interview with the British daily THE GUARDIAN, his majesty said democracy is necessary for Jordan and the region in the light of determined resolutions that will be taken with the ongoing peace process. The king asserted that the making of peace calls for democracy, and this can only be achieved through an elected parliament, as peace concerns everyone.

His majesty added that there was a dialogue on the elections in the light of the Palestinian-Israeli accord. His majesty added that there was anxiety among the Palestinian brothers residing in Jordan; and in spite of that, elections were held. So, no retreat from democracy will take place.

The king disagreed with the Western views that the Muslim Brotherhood might be a threat to Jordan. His majesty said the Muslim Brotherhood, like any party, are committed to the National Charter, which is the main document in the democratic process.

Election-Related Clashes in al-Mazar Noted

JN1711075093 Amman AL-AHALI in Arabic 15 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] Tension and protests in the Irbid Governorate have intensified following the announcement of the results of the parliamentary elections. Citizens of al-Mazar al-Shamaliyah, where tension was highest, said hundreds of protesters demonstrated in the city streets. Clashes occurred and several women, children, and elderly people were wounded and more than 100 people were arrested. Curfew was imposed on the night of 10 November and the town remained under siege until Thursday morning.

The al-Mazar inhabitants presented a petition demanding that these events be investigated and the officials responsible for the civilian casualties and damage be punished.

It is noteworthy that the Irbid elections were met with a large- scale campaign of protest and suspicion by both candidates and voters, who stressed that the outcome of the elections cannot reflect the ballots they cast. They

cited the farce of repeating the vote count and rearranging the order of winners although the interior minister had officially announced the results of elections on the morning of 9 November.

Columnist Views Recent Jordan Valley Clash

JN0911205493 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Nov 93 p 3

["Trends" column by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Abu-Gharbiyah: "He Who Wants Palestine Does Not Sacrifice Jordan"]

[Text] Anyone who heard the Jordanian television report, which was cited by news agencies, on the armed clash between a three-man armed group and a forward military position of our valiant soldiers, in which a noncommissioned officer from our Armed Forces and the whole armed group were victimized and many others were wounded, can only say that even if this operation was intended to work against the enemy it was still a crime perpetrated by both the armed group and the parties that sent and misled this group.

This operation was a crime against Jordan and its security, not just against the Armed Forces in their forward positions. It was also a crime against the Palestine question.

Signs indicate that the three men were heading for the front lines, perhaps to carry out a military operation against the Zionist enemy. This prompts me to discuss both the feasibility of such operations and the extent of their impact on the Zionist occupation. What are the objectives of such operations?

Some 25 years ago, particularly after the Zionist enemy occupied the remainder of Palestine and other Arab territories in the 1967 war, commando actions against the occupation escalated and the commando bases publicly spread on most border areas with the Zionist entity. Moreover, qualitative and effective fedayeen operations that destabilized the enemy were carried out in that phase. These operations were carried out across the Jordanian borders because the fedayeen bases were present on Jordanian territory.

These operations frequently led to serious clashes between the Jordanian and Zionist forces as a consequence of resistance operations. Cohesion between fedayeen and soldiers culminated in the great victory that was achieved in the al-Karamah battle in 1968. We still recall the sincerity of this fraternal cohesion and the true assistance which the Jordanian soldier in the front lines used to provide to his brother fedayeen who confronted the common enemy for the sake of liberation and the cessation of the Zionist expansion. Until the phase of the [fedayeen] exodus from Beirut, such operations could have been a revolutionary and popular demand to confront the enemy's ambitions for settlements and expansion. However, since the exodus from Beirut, there has been a search for other ways to confront the Zionist occupation of the Palestinian Arab territories. The answer came from these territories; namely, the popular intifadah that broke out in late 1987. The intifadah answered the question: How can we confront the Zionist enemy while we are outside the occupied territories?

In the past, it was natural to have fedayeen bases in order to carry out operations against the enemy due to the circumstances of that phase. However, everyone was aware that these operations would not liberate the homeland, but in that particular phase the enemy had to be engaged in order to form armed groups and cells inside the occupied homeland. This is because action in the occupied territories would destabilize, affect, and stimulate the enemy. This was best proved by the operations carried out behind enemy lines during the October 1973 war when armed fedayeen groups struck the enemy inside the occupied territories. Fedayeen operations escalated, and the enemy's rear lines were thus disrupted. This extended a great deal of help to the Arab forces that were waging war against the enemy on the Syrian and Egyptian fronts.

The enemy can be confronted this way. There has always been a debate on the need to form revolutionary cells in the occupied territories. For this reason also, voices were raised, stressing the need to introduce weapons as one of the tools used by the popular intifadah despite the fears that the enemy might carry out annihilation operations on the pretext of self-defense.

In view of this quick briefing, I believe that the real confrontation of the occupying enemy cannot take place across borders. This method, employed 25 years ago, is no longer effective or useful in this phase; rather, it poses a grave danger to the state through which the operations are carried out. This method can only be termed a crime no less heinous than a group of children carrying knives being sent to cross the borders in the hope of liberating Palestine with a knife.

It is a crime and a suspect conspiracy. Rejection of the Zionist-PLO agreement cannot be expressed by provoking unrest and disturbances in the Arab states but by supporting and escalating the intifadah. This is because rejection should entail confronting the enemy through a strategy that departs from suicide and adventures, and avoids undermining the security of any Arab country.

Whether it really intended to carry out an operation against the Zionist enemy but directed its fire at our soldiers in the front lines, or whether it had any other objective, the armed group that clashed with our Armed Forces actually perpetrated a heinous crime that should not go unnoticed. The suspect parties standing behind this armed group should be identified.

It should be emphasized that anyone who wants to confront the Zionist enemy must do so inside the occupied territories. It is the duty of those outside the occupied homeland to support, activate, and escalate the intifadah. Operations carried out across borders not only

fail to liberate the homeland but also harm the homelands in general and the Jordanian homeland in particular. He who really wants Palestine does not sacrifice Jordan and its security.

Minister Reacts to Parties' Charges About Elections

JN1411112193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Nov 93 p 1

[By a JORDAN TIMES reporter]

[Text] Amman—Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad al-'Anani Saturday called on political parties to evaluate their results in last week's elections instead of blaming the government for their failure.

Dr. al-'Anani was reacting to a statement issued Saturday by five leftist parties accusing the government of being behind their poor showing in last Monday's elections.

"The current situation requires one to study the results and learn and benefit from his mistakes and evaluate the slogans that he put forth and the degree of his credibility among the people," Dr. al-'Anani told the JORDAN TIMES.

"In a joint statement, five leftist political parties accused the government of "planning and working to produce a parliament that would serve the purpose of the (current) stage while keeping an appearance of formal democracy."

The statement was signed by the Jordanian Ba'th Arab Socialist Party, the Jordan Communist Party, the Jordan People's Democratic Party (Hashd), the Jordan Socialist Democratic Party and the Jordan Democratic Popular Unity Party.

The five parties had fielded 13 candidates in some of the Kingdom's 20 districts. Only two candidates, Bassam Haddadin of the Jordan People's Democratic Party, and Khalil Haddadin of the Jordanian Ba'th Arab Socialist Party, made it to Parliament.

Bassam Haddadin won the Christian seat in the district of al- Zarqa' and Khalil Haddadin the Christian seat in Amman's Third District.

"Democracy is a joint responsibility which reflects the people's opinion and its position on current issues and political parties bear an equal responsibility to that of the official bodies to take this experiment to the highest levels of maturity," Dr. al-'Anani said.

In the meantime, the Associated Press quoted residents of northern al-Mazar village as saying that on Wednesday police forcibly dispersed hundreds of demonstrators who protested alleged irregularities in the Nov. 8 elections, resulting in the injury of 70 people and the detention of about 200.

The AP quoted Minister of Information Ma'n Abu-Nuwar as denying the report and said: "I can assure you that nothing of such nature took place in al-Mazar."

2 Parliamentary Blocs Expected To Be 'Vocal'

JN1311141293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Nov 93 pp 1, 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Contrary to public belief, the non-Islamist, non-leftist bloc in Parliament is expected to form a vocal parliamentary group that both the government and the official opposition will have to reckon with, according to analysts.

Alliances based on internal issues are expected to be a new phenomenon in the 12th Parliament when it convenes sometime in the next three weeks. The ability of an estimated 30 deputies forming two "critical" blocs in—Islamic Action Front (IAF) and leftists—in the Lower House to draw independent and tribal support will be a major factor in their ability to force the government to implement their programmes and policies, analysts and commentators say.

Initial predictions that the 12th Parliament will be dominated by traditional and centrist politicians have materialised following the apparent decline in the number of both Islamist and leftist and pan- Arab political deputies. Together, the two groups comprise a "critical" bloc of around 30 deputies who are expected to be very vocal on isues pertaining to economic planning, public freedoms and the peace process.

"But the crux of the matter is that the non-bloc members, particularly the independents, may play a very important role. Depending on the issue, they may side with the leftists and the IAF," says a former high-ranking official.

The bloc, says the former official, would include not only the 15 IAF deputies but independent Islamists, leftist and, in some instances, independent deputies as well. Some deputies who seek Cabinet posts but fail to secure them may become possible critics and opposition members to whatever government is in office.

"Most commentators assume that if someone is an 'independent' (he or she) cannot have a critical position regarding the peace process, economic planning or other issues—this is just not so," added the former official.

"There are at least 30 highly politicised deputies and they are likely to make the day a lively one in Parliament. No government should take this Parliament for granted. It should work hard to take Parliament's criticisms into consideration when formulating policies," cautioned the former official.

Iyad al-Qattan, director of the Royal Cultural Centre and moderator of many public political debates, agrees with the former official: "The make-up of Parliament does

not mean that there will be agreement with the government on all issues, especially internal issues will be hotly debated by tribal chiefs and leftists alike."

Dr. 'Ablah Ammawi, from the Amman-based French Centre for Contemporary Middle Eastern Study and Research, agrees with Mr. al- Qattan.

"People voted for their tribe, their clan, their kinsmen in most instances. But since on internal issues in particular there are so many different interests, chances are that these traditionalists will oppose the government on many policies if it did not address the different regional interests," said Dr. Ammawi. "It may be that on foreign affairs they will vote in favour of the government line, but in return they will press for concessions on internal issues."

Not all commentators agree that strong bloc voting will be able to oppose or change government policies. "Critical voices in the Lower Houser has been reduced. Thanks to limitations on the election process and the change in the Election Law, critical voices will be outvoted every time," said IAF member Ziyad Abu-Ghanimah.

Mr. Abu-Ghanimah, a former spokesman for the IAF, believes that the 12th Parliament is comprised of "docile, yes men" who will allow any government to pass its policies with ease. "There will be a maximum of 30 votes of opposition and that is not enough to vote down any government policy or programmes," Mr. Abu-Ghanimah told the JORDAN TIMES.

But Mr. Abu-Ghanimah was not the only person who felt that the voices of opposition in Parliament would now be minimalised. "The new Parliament is comprised of mostly yes men and it will be their day," said a spokesman for the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party [JDPP], which along with the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP) fielded six candidates. The JDPP, Bassam Haddadin, won a seat in al-Zarqa'.

"Opponents of the peace process have been ousted with the help of the one-person, one-vote amendment to the Election Law and now the way is clear for the government to sign a peace agreement with Israel with parliamentary approval," said the JDPP spokesman on condition of anonymity.

While the spokesman for the leftist party conceded that "there will be some opposition from non-party deputies on internal issues, these will be of minor political importance and will ot upset the government priorities: the peace process and the implementation of the economic adjustment programme."

Not only political observers and commentators were sceptical of the 12th parliament's ability to oppose government policies on major issues, however.

"The voices of opposition in this Parliament will be much less and may contribute to a lack of creative dialogue," says Dr. 'Urwa al-'Amiri, who heads the independent Centre for Women's Studies.

"There are not only less members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Parliament but many very progressive voices that created dialogue in Parliament, have lost," says Dr. al-'Amiri.

"To have large number of deputies of the same political trend (traditionalists) in the Lower House may lead to mediocrity because they will not be able to challenge government proposals and policies. Their numbers are large enough to enable the government to pass any amendment or law without much opposition."

Such a situation, says Dr. al-'Ameri may "lack the enriching process of dialogue that ultimately leads to improvement."

Dissent, says Dr. al-'Amiri, "is not a luxury, it is a necessity for constant improvement and thought."

The one-person, one-vote amendment to the Election Law forced Jordanians to "fall back on traditions of tribal politics which are not conducive to democratic development where people vote on issues and policies regardless of clan, sectarian or regional affiliations," Dr. al-'Amiri said.

The performance of the critical forces in Parliament remains to be seen but the ability of the existing bloc of 30 to create a lively dialogue is almost certain.

Israeli Planes Attack Hizballah Radio, TV

NC1611173593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] The Israeli attacks against the free southern villages were expanded this afternoon to cover the city of Ba'labakk and other positions in al-Biqa'. The attacks targeted the Hizballah-owned Voice of Islam [Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed] and al-Fajr Television.

A total of eight Israeli warplanes raided the city of Ba'labakk at 1835. The raid targeted two antennas belonging to the Voice of the Oppressed Radio and al-Fajr Television, which both stopped transmitting. The raids also damaged two antiaircraft batteries, wounded a citizen, and shattered the windows of several homes. Hizballah and Syrian forces directed antiaircraft fire at the raiding planes.

The first raid was followed by a second raid by four enemy planes against the township of Janta at 1545. It caused heavy material damage. The enemy planes also raided the hills of Nahlah, north of Ba'labakk, and 'Amishkah, east of Ba'labakk.

The enemy planes flew reconnaissance sorties over Ba'labakk at 1300 today and drew antiaircraft fire. Security sources said that thick columns of smoke were seen rising from the targeted regions.

Citing a security source, REUTER reported that the raid targeted four Hizballah targets and wounded two of its members. AFP reported that Hizballah fighters cut the roads leading to the scene of the bombardment east of Ba'labakk after the raid and prevented reporters from entering the region.

SLA Prisoners Transferred to Beirut

NC1611204793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Our security correspondent has reported that the 12 South Lebanese Army members captured by the Islamic Resistance after occupying the Tallusah and al-Qantarah posts today have been transferred to Beirut. Before that, they were assembled in the Majdal Silm square. According to further information, the prisoners' names are: Master Sergeant Husayn 'Ali Mansur, born in 'Aytarun in 1972; Sergeant Ghalib Muhammad Khurzan, born in 'Aytarun in 1969; Sergeant Khalil Sulayman Sayyid, born in 'Aytarun in 1966; Corporal Munir Muhammad Burji, born in Mays al-Jabal in 1973; Corporal 'Ali Muhammad 'Abdallah, born in 'Aytarun in 1970; Corporal Khalil 'Ali Hasan, born in 1978; Private 'Ali Muhammad Husayn, born in Mays al-Jabal in 1973; and Privates Sa'dallah Mustafa Ya'qub, Tariq 'Afif Ja'far, and 'Isam Khalil Ba'albaki. Hizballah sources declined to give the name of the commander of the post [not further specified] and his assistant.

Hizballah's Nasrallah Reportedly To Lose Post

NC1711120293 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 15 Nov 93 p 8

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah is about to lose his post after severe criticism from Iranian officials, principally Iranian President 'Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Both accused Nasrallah of not acting to heal the rift within Hizballah and said that under his leadership, Hizballah suffers growing division.

Information arriving in Iran from several ulema of various trends in Lebanon demonstrated how bad things are for its groups in Lebanon. The message that Sheykh Mahdavi-Kani, Iranian leader of the Militant Clergy Association, received from a Lebanese who is sympathetic with Iran added to the Iranian officials' rebuke of Nasrallah. The secretary general earlier left for Qom to request appointments with Shiite authority Reza (Kalbikani) and Seyyed Ruhani, but neither had set a date for an appointment when this report was written.

Jordan's Health Minister Arrives in Beirut

NC1711115293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Jordanian Health Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Malhas arrived in Beirut this morning from Amman on a visit to Lebanon of several days to study the possibility of sending Jordanian medical missions for training in public health at the American University of Beirut financed by WHO.

The Jordanian minister was welcomed at the airport by Health Minister Marwan Hamadah and Jordanian Ambassador Fakhri Abu-Talib. [passage omitted]

Vice President Discusses Peace, Foreign Policy

JN1611151593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1305 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Interview with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by Nabil Sabbagh and Sana' al-Imam in Damascus, carried simultaneously with Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Sabbagh] Your Excellency Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam: Since our last meeting a year ago on the same occasion, the Syrian-Israeli talks have been revolving in a vicious circle, while an agreement was signed between the PLO and Israel after secret talks. A Jordanian-Israeli plan is also expected to follow soon. Have these developments weakened the Syrian and Lebanese positions or not?

[Khaddam] In fact, these agreements have further weakened the signatory, because it was the weaker party in negotiations between two parties—a strong party and a weak party. If the party that signed the agreement had stuck to the comprehensive solution formula and Arab coordination, it would have benefited from that coordination, it would have been in a good position, and it would not have been obliged to make concessions that constitute a new burden and a new problem. The strength of the Syrian position lies in Syria's strength. We worked to achieve the Arab coordination formula to help the other fraternal parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, because the original problem is not just between Israel and another Arab party. Rather, it is an Arab-Israeli problem. It is an Arab-Israeli conflict. Let us give an example to show how others would have benefited from Syria's position. Let us take Lebanon. When the Lebanese Government signed the 17 May agreement, that agreement turned Lebanon into an Israeli protectorate and stripped Lebanon of its sovereignty, will, and limited the possibilities for its growth and development. But when the Lebanese Government resumed it sound position of cooperation with its brother, Syria, Lebanon managed to topple the 17 May agreement, freed itself from that agreement, and it is now negotiating on different bases. It is negotiating in light of the implementation of Resolution 425, while the 17 May agreement was another matter. I can say that cooperation and coordination with Syria constitute a strength for the Arab parties because Syria has been waging the conflict, and despite the conflict's pan-Arab dimension, Syria basically depended on its own human capabilities.

[Sabbagh] This leads us to the Arab coordination meetings. When Syria agreed to take part in the Madrid conference on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy did Damascus have doubts about Israeli intentions for peace and did it expect Israel to use the unilateral negotiations card—and hence its insistence on holding coordination meetings before each negotiating round?

[Khaddam] In fact, the issue of Arab coordination is linked to our political decisions. We believe that that conflict, as I have just explained, is an Arab-Israeli conflict. This requires serious and real coordination among the Arab parties to ensure Arab rights and interests. In addition, joint Arab action and serious Arab coordination will also give credibility and stability to any agreement signed with the other side. Of course we had, and continue to have, our doubts because we believe that the Israelis are trying to single out this or that party in order to achieve gains and impose new conditions. But coordination has not taken place as it should and has not served the Arab side's interests.

[Sabbagh] Does Syria have any bitter feelings about this fact?

[Khaddam] Our bitter feelings actually come from our belief that what has taken place does not constitute a solution to the Palestinian people's problem and has not put an end to the sufferings of our Palestinian brothers, both those who living are under Israeli occupation and those who are displaced living outside the occupied territories.

[Sabbagh] After the PLO and Jordan, Israel thus seeks—as part of these separate deals—to drive a wedge between Syria and Lebanon by making various offers to Beirut every now and then. Are you somewhat concerned about the cohesion between the two countries? [Syria and Lebanon]

[Khaddam] Cooperation between the Syrian and Lebanese governments is good. It is established on objective bases outlined in the treaty of fraternity, cooperation, and friendship signed between the two countries. We are confident that our brothers in Lebanon are well aware of Lebanon's interests, that they are working to serve these interests, and that they realize that these interests can be guaranteed and secured in cooperation with Syria, and not to the contrary. We do not have any doubts about our brothers in Lebanon.

[Sabbagh] Your Excellency Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam: Various media have reported that Syria objected to the Lebanese Army's deployment along the occupied border strip. How true are these reports?

[Khaddam] This issue concerns the Lebanese Government. It is a Lebanese issue. It is the Lebanese Government that decides what is useful and what is not.

[Al-Imam] Your Excellency the Vice President: If Israel makes an offer today that it would fully withdraw from occupied southern Lebanon, what would be the fate of the Lebanese resistance, including Hizballah, especially since the Syrian officials have frequently reiterated that the reason for continuing the resistance; namely, occupation, still exists?

[Khaddam] The Lebanese resistance, with all its parties, says it will continue to fight the Israelis until the south is liberated. We thus believe that the Lebanese national

and Islamic resistance will continue as long as occupation exists. However, when occupation is removed, the justifications [for resistance] will cease to exist.

[Al-Imam] Now that the peace talks have continued for approximately two years, what is the biggest obstacle to achieving a Syrian-Israeli agreement? Is it just defining Syria's concepts of peace and the nature of future relations, or are there other obstacles, keeping in mind that Israel accuses Syria of having an unclear position on peace?

[Khaddam] Syria proposed the principle of full withdrawal for full peace. We, however, have not heard a single word from the Israelis on full withdrawal from the occupied territories. The actions and statements of the Israelis most what clearly show their position on withdrawal. Israeli political statements reflect Israel's policy of continuing the occupation. The problem is thus not to define the concept of peace, because this concept is specified in the UN Charter. The problem is that the Israelis reject both commitment to UN resolutions and to the peace initiative made by the United States.

The agreement signed by 'Arafat and Rabin also increases our doubts about Israel's intentions for withdrawal. A few days after this signing, Rabin stated that Israel's security borders lie in the Jordan Valley, that Jerusalem is a united city, and that the settlements will remain. Where then is the withdrawal?

Withdrawal is the basis of peace. If the Israelis do not make both a clarification and an obvious commitment to withdrawal, it means they want to continue their maneuvers in order to obstruct the peace march.

[Sabbagh] Some of the obstacles Israel is speaking of are the security obstacles, which Israel is using as a pretext to forestall complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Damascus believes that these obstacles are a smoke screen to cover Israel's economic and political purposes. In your opinion, what are these purposes?

[Khaddam] As a matter of fact, we continue to believe that the Israelis are maneuvering. They want to have peace without giving back the territories. They advance these pretexts from time to time. It is the Arabs who need security. The Arabs have never been the aggressors against the Israelis; they have always been the victims of Israeli aggression. The party that has been aggressed against is the one that should ask for security guarantees and advance security pretexts. However, the Israelis raise the security issue to justify their continued efforts to enhance their combat capabilities and buttress their military prowess so that Israel may achieve the strategy of the Zionist movement. As a matter of course, this conflicts with the Arabs' interests as well as their aspirations regarding the restoration of their occupied territories.

[Sabbagh] Trilateral committees comprising Americans, Jordanians, and Israelis have been formed, even before the signing of an agreement with Israel by Jordan. How do you view this development?

[Khaddam] As I have already indicated, we believe that a comprehensive solution is the formula that would ensure and guarantee the interests of the Arab sides. With regard to separate agreements, they only ensure Israeli interests. Besides, they burden the Arab side. We hope that our fraternal Arabs will be aware of this.

[Sabbagh] Have the declared Syrian positions resulted in pressures on Damascus? If the answer is in the affirmative, can you tell us about these pressures?

[Khaddam] We are pursuing a clear policy. This clear policy is not new. Syria is not a country that can accept pressures, or succumb to blackmail.

[Al-Imam] Mr. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam: Some statements by Egyptian officials have predicted a Syrian-Israeli agreement before the end of this year. On what does Cairo base its calculations in this regard?

[Khaddam] We do not have any information on the possible attainment of an agreement before the end of this year. Likewise, we have not received any information to this effect from Egyptian brothers, or others, for that matter. Certainly, when new developments emerge, they will be announced to everybody.

[Al-Imam] Syria has repeatedly rejected secret negotiations modeled on the Oslo negotiations, outside the public Washington bilateral talks. What are the facts regarding the Egyptian role then?

[Khaddam] Our brothers in Egypt are fully aware of our views regarding our adherence to the Madrid formula. They know that we want the resolutions of international legitimacy to be the terms of reference for the negotiations. They have not proposed any other formula to us. We, as Syrian officials have repeatedly indicated, believe that any departure from the Madrid formula constitutes a big trap into which this or that Arab party could be ensnared. That is why we have constantly called for continued adherence to the legitimacy formula, namely, the Madrid formula, and urged that negotiations be pursued in accordance with this formula.

[Sabbagh] What is the solution in this case? Israel rejects the Madrid formula and feels it is outdated, while Syria sticks to this formula?

[Khaddam] Israel, basically, rejects any formula that is based on international legitimacy. It is like the aggressor in past times who refuses to go to court and wants to resolve the problem, the crime, outside the court, because by doing so, he will be in a better position than if he submits to legitimacy and law. For that reason, we stick to the Madrid formula and international legitimacy.

[Sabbagh] The U.S. secretary of state is expected to make a tour of the region before the end of the year. This tour will come on the heels of Clinton-Rabin talks in Washington. Do you expect Warren Christopher to carry anything with him to resolve the crisis in the Syrian-Israeli talks?

[Khaddam] Why should we put ourselves in the position of expectations? When Mr. Christopher arrives here, we will see what he carries.

[Sabbagh] Talking about expectations, the media have anticipated Christopher's tour and revealed a U.S. proposal to station U.S. soldiers in the Golan Heights, similar to what it did in the Sinai, as a guarantee to Israel. The proposal also provides that the Israeli troops withdraw from the occupied Syrian territories in stages, taking between five and 10 years?

[Khaddam] We usually read in the media things that are unrelated to reality. This matter is also unrelated to reality.

[Sabbagh] France and Germany were foes for many years, but they have become the driving force behind the European structure. Can this be applied in the Middle East in the near future?

[Khaddam] It is totally different. True, France and Germany had wars, but Germany has not displaced millions of French citizens, and it had no designs to capture large areas of France and make them part of Germany. Furthermore, in order for Germany to be able to become part of Europe, let us see what happened. First, Germany, which lost World War II, signed a peace treaty, according to which constitutional, military, and political restrictions were placed on Germany. The Allied Powers, which won the war, are still stationed in Germany. Why are they still there? Germany is a NATO member, the Soviet Union has collapsed, and there is no threat against Europe from the East. So, why are French, U.S., and British forces are still stationed in Germany? Second, in this region, you should talk about an Arab coalition, where you have harmony in culture, interests, objectives, and aspirations. Third, Turkey has applied for membership in the European Community and the European Common Market, and its application was turned down. Turkey is a NATO member, a significant part of NATO. It is practically part of the European security, so why did the EC reject Turkey's membership. Morocco also asked for EC membership, so why was its application turned down? If there were objective reasons to reject Turkey's membership [in the EC], then these very same reasons hold if one wants to understand why Israel cannot be accepted in the Arab structure?

[Sabbagh] Speaking of Turkey, an envoy of the Turkish Government visited Damascus recently following Turkey's threat to stop the flow of water and to launch lightning attacks under the pretext that the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] fighters are stationed in northern Syria. What were the results of the Syrian- Turkish talks?

[Khaddam] Some intransigent statements and articles appeared in the Turkish media. Such statements and articles do no reflect the official Turkish stand. Relations between Syria and Turkey are good, and contacts have continued between the two governments. The borders between the two countries are more than 800 km long and there are mutual interests. Both governments seek to develop cooperation between them. There is an internal problem in Turkey. The Turkish Government asked for the Syrian Government's help to end this problem. Some quarters in Turkey, particularly in the media, say there are PKK camps in Syria. This is totally incorrect, because we will not accept any party turning Syrian territory into a base to undermine the security of any neighborly country. Turkey is a neighborly country, and we want our neighbors to be stable.

The message was cordial. There is a joint Syrian-Turkish security committee that meets periodically. This committee will meet in Ankara, in the next few days.

[Sabbagh] This leads us to speak about waters in the region. This is a vital matter. Doesn't Syria fear that it will be deprived of its rights if it continues to boycott the multilateral talks?

[Khaddam] Boycotting the multilateral talks does not worry us. The objective of the multilateral talks is to serve Israel; they aim at achieving normalization and peace with Israel before withdrawing from the occupied territory and before ending aggression.

Israel has nothing to do with the existing world problem between Syria and Iraq on one hand and Turkey on the other. There is a problem and there are ongoing talks among the three countries to reach an agreement in order to define the right of each of the three countries to the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates.

[Sabbagh] There is the problem of water with regard to the Golan, the Yarmuk River, and the Jordan River tributaries. These matters are being discussed in the multilateral talks.

[Khaddam] If the water comes from China, Japan, or Australia, then let them discuss it if they wish.

[Al-Imam] How do you assess your relations with Washington in the light of the visit by Faruq al-Shar', the first such visit by a head of Syrian diplomacy in nearly 20 years, keeping in mind that the United States is still keeping Syria on the list of the states sponsoring terrorism?

[Khaddam] The relations we have are good. They are normal, and are better than what they were in the past. As is well known, there is constant contact between the two governments and letters exchanged between the two presidents. Regarding visits, the latest visit was not 20 years ago, but 10 years ago, in 1983. U.S. officials have made frequent visits to Syria. This means that contacts and dialogue between the two countries have not ceased for a long time. Naturally, we achieve satisfactory progress in relations through this dialogue. Regarding the subject of Syria's name on the list of terrorism, we have discussed this matter with the Americans, who could not provide a single piece of evidence that Syria, or Syrian parties, or parties residing in Syria, are linked to terrorist operations. But, if the matter concerns our support to the Palestinian people in their struggle against the Israeli aggression, then this, as Syria understands it,

is not terrorism. It is part of a legitimate national struggle. At any rate, whether Syria is included on the list of terrorism or not, this does not change anything as far as Syria is concerned and does not affect our interests.

[Sabbagh] From Arab-U.S. relations, we move to inter-Arab relations. In the light of the current Arab reality and difficult conditions, does Syria feel there are any justification for keeping the Arab League?

[Khaddam] Yes, the Arab League must remain. However, it needs a review and a reassessment. The error, the fault is not in the Arab League structure, but in Arab practices. The working formulas of the Arab League place no restrictions on those who do not abide by the resolutions. The situation requires a review, but the Arab League's formula must remain and its status must be strengthened.

[Sabbagh] And, the comprehensive Arab reconciliation, is it still far-fetched?

[Khaddam] In fact, talking about reconciliation is impractical. Discussion must focus on interests. There are conflicting interests, or interests that came into conflict at certain stages. These interests were not built on the basis of the general, collective Arab interest, and hence the conflict between these interests. Of course, we hope that we will all be able to end this conflict and reach a formula for inter-Arab action that will give priority to general, common Arab interests. When we guarantee our interests as Arabs, we can guarantee our interests as states. But if some of us guarantee our interests as states, while the Arab nation's interest is not guaranteed, then these [individual] guaranteed interests cannot be guaranteed for very long.

[Al-Imam] After the rightists in France assumed power, did France change its position toward Syria, and what is the nature of Syria's relations with it and with other EC member states?

[Khaddam] In fact, positions have not changes because relations among states are based on interests. There is no change in interests and, therefore, positions have not changed. There are continued contacts between the two states, and Syria and France want their relations to be on a good level in the interest of both countries. Regarding our relations with the EC, we can say they differ from one country to another. They are good with some countries, satisfactory with some others, and ordinary with the others. But we have the desire to improve these relations to serve the interests of all parties.

[Al-Imam] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe is due to arrive in Syria tomorrow. What is the aim of his visit, and what role can Europe play in the peace process in light of the rejection by the United States and Israel of any such role?

[Khaddam] The aim of the visit, as Alain Juppe announced, is to discuss the region's situation and bilateral relations. We want Europe to take part seriously in efforts to search for peace, [words indistinct] it immediately borders the region, and any negative or positive developments in the region will reflect on Europe due to its closeness and interests. The Europeans, however, know their potential well and whether they should play a minor of a major role.

[Sabbagh] Do Syria's debts block efforts to facilitate relations between Syria and the EC in general?

[Khaddam] The volume of the EC's debts on Syria is very small and does not constitute an obstacle. In practice, however, some European sides surrender to pressures from other sides. However, when the EC or a member state extends a loan for a development project, this means that both we and the creditor have an interest. The question is the growth of mutual interests.

[Sabbagh] Let us move from Syrian-European relations to Syrian-Russian relations. Has Russia, the inheritor of the Soviet Union, maintained close relations with Syria, or are there new rules regulating relations with Moscow?

[Khaddam] in fact, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, contacts between us and the Russian Government took place. But we all see what is taking place in Russia. We are closely following the developments in the Russian situation, which do not give us much of a chance for discussing the extent of Russia's commitment to the Soviet legacy.

[Sabbagh] In following the recent developments, we noticed Russia's position on tightening sanctions against Libya. It is a materialist position through which Russia wants to recover its debts on Libya. Is there any similar position toward Syria?

[Khaddam] This is another question. It is a completely different issue.

[Al-Imam] Mr. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam: How is Syria celebrating the anniversary of the Corrective Movement this year?

[Khaddam] As a matter of fact, the Corrective Movement is almost a quarter of a century old. Over the past 23 years, enormous achievements have been realized in all walks of life in Syria. These achievements can be attributed to three basic factors. The first is the course charted by our president, leader President Hafiz al-Asad, which is based on a clear and responsible future outlook regarding Syria as well as its national and regional role. The second factor concerns the stability enjoyed by the country throughout these many long years. Syria has enjoyed this stability, thanks to the leadership of our president. This is an enlightened leadership that is aware of the importance of effecting objective development in the country in a manner that corresponds to the country's identity. This development has been pursued in accordance with the country's means and resources. The third factor, which has been instrumental in achieving these accomplishments, is the Syrian people—their support for their country and leader, and their awareness

that struggle, sacrifices, and hard work can ensure them security and a decent living, and bring pride and dignity to their country.

[Sabbagh] At the end of the interview, I would like to extend my great thanks to you. Yet, I do have a private and last question for you. Mr. Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam: How often do you listen to Radio Monte Carlo, as compared to the other foreign radio stations beamed to the Arab world?

[Khaddam] As a matter of fact, I do listen to Radio Monte Carlo's newscasts and commentaries. I have noted an objective development in the news reports your radio broadcasts. We hope that cooperation between Radio Monte Carlo and the Syrian news media will continue. Similarly, we hope that the search for truth will always be the objective of all news media, including Radio Monte Carlo. I thank you for this opportunity, and I wish you success.

[Sabbagh] Thank you very much, sir.

Official Reaffirms Adherence to Peace Process

PM1611153093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Nov 93 p 5

[Ibrahim Humaydi report: "Syrian Official Tells AL-HAYAH: No Negotiations Before Positive Israeli Position Is Perceived"]

[Text] Damascus—A high-ranking Syrian official has emphasized to AL-HAYAH his country's adherence to the foundations of the peace process and a comprehensive solution on all tracks. He pointed out that the negotiations have achieved their aim because of Israel's attempt to "evade" the foundations and essence of peace. He said: "Issues which result from peace should not be discussed before peace is achieved."

The Syrian official stressed Syria's "cooperation" with the United States in the peace process and the U.S. Administration's commitment to "the foundations of a just and comprehensive peace." The official pointed out that Israel is trying to give the world the impression that the Gaza-Jericho accord has achieved peace in the region. The official stressed that the Palestinian factions opposed to the accord "have the freedom to express themselves (...) and they have criticized some aspects of Syrian policy."

The official said that Syria will not go to the bilateral negotiations "until it perceives a positive position in the peace process leading to progress." He recalled statements made by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in this connection, pointing out that "seriousness" in Syrian terms means that "the Israeli side must express its acceptance of the foundations of the peace initiative and the Madrid framework. And it should be willing to implement the foundations on which the (U.S.) initiative was based, namely a complete withdrawal in return for full peace and the implementation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338." The Syrian official also said: "We are not standing in a line asking people whether they want peace," recalling President Hafiz al-Asad's statements in this connection. He stressed that his country would withdraw completely (from the negotiations) if "it believes that negotiations with the Israeli side are futile."

On reports of secret talks between Syria and Israel, the official said that Syria "absolutely refuses to deviate from the Madrid formula and the foundations of the peace initiative with the U.S. Administration, which stipulates full peace for full withdrawal." The official added that the UN resolutions and the foundations of the peace negotiations "do not include holding secret talks."

On his assessment of the results achieved by the peace process so far, the official said that the peace talks "have not achieved the aim set for them, because of the position of Israel, which is trying to evade the foundations of the peace process, avoid discussing fundamental questions in the peace process, and involve the parties in incidental, partial, and administrative questions and questions which result from peace rather than the questions which precede peace." The official added that the working paper submitted by the Syrian delegation in the sixth round of negotiations in August last year included discussing all the issues raised in the peace process, "but Israel is avoiding saying what it must say to achieve progress toward peace. That is, complete withdrawal from the occupied Syrian land, as there can be no bargaining over a single inch of it." The official said: "Issues which result from peace should not be discussed before peace has been achieved. So far Israel has not uttered the words 'complete withdrawal.'"

On the effect of the PLO's agreement with Israel vis-a-vis administrative rule, beginning with Gaza and Jericho, on the other negotiation tracks, the Syrian official said: "Israel is misleading world public opinion, trying to give it the impression that the Gaza-Jericho accord has achieved peace—which is a lie, untrue, and inaccurate." The official added that Tel Aviv is trying "to exploit this accord to give people the impression that it has established peace through this accord." The official stressed that it is also trying to "deviate from the Madrid framework and has not accepted the land for peace principle."

The official summed up Damascus' position in the light of Syrian-U.S. "cooperation" in the peace process as follows:

—Syria's cooperation with the United States on the basis of the foundations agreed for the peace process, namely the land for peace principle and implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338;
—The United States has repeatedly emphasized its commitment to the peace process, its foundations, and its aim, namely a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The official cited the contacts which U.S. President Bill Clinton had with President al-Asad and

in which he emphasized "his commitment to a just and comprehensive peace." The official said: "We are with him and agree to that (the foundations of the peace process);"

—Syria, which agreed to the foundations of the peace process, finds itself in agreement with the United States over the aim—a just and comprehensive peace. That is, there is no problem between Damascus and Washington in this connection. The main problem lies in Israel's intransigence and rejection of the foundations of the peace process, as well as its repeated attempts to deviate from its foundations and framework;

—Israel is putting obstacles and difficulties in the way of the peace process;

—Damascus' rejection of partial and separate solutions, because it has been proved that such solutions do not establish a just and comprehensive peace acceptable to the peoples and capable of lasting.

On the results of the recent European contacts with Damascus to push the peace process forward, the official said: "We always hope that Europe will play a role in the (peace) process. We have always called for a European role, and we want Europe to put all its weight behind the process, its foundations, and international legitimacy, especially as the region is adjacent to Europe and there is mutual influence and common interests, and a just and comprehensive peace is in Europe's interests."

On Syria's position on the the Damascus-based "10 factions" opposed to the Israeli-Palestinian accord, the official said that these factions "have the freedom to express themselves, even to criticize Syria." He added that the Palestinian organizations "disagreed in the past with some aspects of Syrian policy, and they were not questioned by anyone."

Arabs Seek 'All-Out' U.S. Effort in Peace Process

JN1711163793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Ever since it was announced that Warren Christopher is to visit the region to inject momentum into the peace process, the Israelis have been asserting that the U.S. secretary is coming to promote the ideas Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin communicated to Washington during his recent visit there. For instance, Rabin is said by Israeli sources to have impressed the U.S. Administration with the idea to give the Palestinian-Israeli accord priority over movement toward a comprehensive settlement on all the Arab fronts. Rabin is also said to have suggested that, as a means of pushing the peace negotiations forward—especially with Syria—it would be preferable to pursue a framework other than the bilateral talks spawned by the Madrid formula.

Once Christopher arrives in the region, we should be able to determine whether he is carrying Israeli-made ideas about the peace process. In the meantime, we expect further such Israeli test balloons—which are a mixture of truth and falsehood. Assuming that Washington does go along with Israel in regard to the precedence of the Gaza-Jericho accord over a comprehensive settlement and the need for a negotiating framework outside the Madrid formula, the implication is that Christopher is coming here to pressure the Arab parties into accepting the Israeli approach.

We do not think it befits the American role as sponsors of the peace process to be downgraded to a mailman and an instrument of Israeli pressure. Indeed, it should be seen as an affront to the Americans that Israel seeks to minimize their role. By thus portraying the American secretary's mission in the region, Israel is downplaying the full partner role of the United States at whose initiative the peace process kicked off. A full partner ought to have a significant say and role in setting the pace of the peace process and making sure that it does not stray from the path charted at the Madrid peace conference.

To the extent that peace must be comprehensive and fair, Arab parties have never had much faith in Israel's intentions. If the peace process were to be subject to Israel's intentions, the Arabs would not have joined it to begin with, since they are the ones most knowledgeable about Israel's intentions. Arab suspicions have been confirmed by 20 months of Israel's stalling at the Washington talks and its sidestepping of the Madrid formula.

Under the circumstances, Washington's duty to allay Arab doubts about Israel's intentions and actions becomes all the more onerous. It can do this by acting credibly and continuing to pursue peace on the lines agreed in Madrid. We do not think that Washington will accept a role as a promoter of partial Israeli deals that can only complicate things further and preempt a truly comprehensive and absolutely fair and viable peace.

The Arabs look forward to an all-out American effort to advance a Middle East settlement under which aggression and occupation are eliminated and legitimate rights and national, territorial sovereignties assured. Given the will, the United States can bring about this kind of peace—one that ensures security and justice for all.

Iranian General Meets Syrian, Hizballah Officials

NC1711074393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] The commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], who is in Damascus at the invitation of the Syrian defense minister, met the Syrian chief of joint staffs last night. During the meeting at the Syrian joint staffs headquarters, the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest.

Major General Mohsen Reza'i also met members of the Central Council of Lebanon's Hizballah in Damascus yesterday to discuss Lebanon's problems and the Middle East situation and to highlight the need to continue the anti-Zionist struggle.

Al-Asad Receives Phone Call From al-Hirawi

JN1511095793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a telephone call from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, during which they discussed bilateral issues.

President al-Hirawi also congratulated President al-Asad on the anniversary of the Corrective Movement.

Al-Asad Receives Phone Call From Yemeni President

JN1511173793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a phone call from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih last night. The conversation centered on bilateral issues.

Afghanistan

Further on Fighting in Kabul, Other Areas

Hekmatyar Forces Fire on Kabul

LD1611164793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Hekmatyar's forces fired five mortars at Kabul city ward no. 9 today.

A responsible source from Kabul city garrison command told a military correspondent of the BAKHTAR Information Agency that as a result of the impact of these mortars, which were fired from an eastern direction, two Kabul citizens were injured and were immediately transferred to hospital. They are receiving treatment.

'Heavy' Casualties Reported

LD1611165493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Attacks by the Islamic army in Naghlu and Sarobi areas after yesterday's offensive by Hekmatyar's forces inflicted heavy loss of life and property on the aggressor forces.

Quoting a responsible source of the Ministry of Defense, a BAKHTAR military correspondent reported that as a result of these attacks in Naghlu and Sarobi areas [east of Kabul] today and yesterday, the aggressors' combat morale has been weakened and they have fled in many areas. Also as a result of the attack 60 members of Hekmatyar's forces, including several commanders, have been killed and several heavy weapons units have been destroyed.

The source added that the Islamic army seized a large amount of weapons and ammunition during the attack.

Parties Exchange Prisoners

LD1711112793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Afghanistan's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Society Party] and Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] exchanged some of their prisoners yesterday. According to a Central News Unit dispatch from Kabul, Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami released 22 civilians in exchange for nine military personnel who had been captured by Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami. The measure was taken in the wake of a recent agreement between the two sides to establish a lasting cease-fire.

The report also indicates that the western district of Kabul is calm and a cease-fire between Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and the Supervisory Council is holding. Hezb-e Wahdat has stated that it will remain neutral in clashes between the government forces and Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] [as heard].

Rabbani Comments on Relations With Egypt

NC1311165293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Kabul, 13 Nov (MENA)—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has affirmed that his country, both government and people, is interested in Egypt's peace and stability because Egypt is the best prop for the Islamic nation.

Speaking to a MENA correspondent in Kabul, the Afghan president stressed that his country would not give asylum to any individual or group involved in actions that jeopardize Egypt's security.

Rabbani pointed out that his visit to Egypt, to begin Monday, is in response to President Mubarak's invitation. He expressed the hope that his meeting with the president would further bolster ties between Egypt and Afghanistan in the various spheres.

We are eager to see the reopening of the Egyptian Embassy in Kabul, Rabbani said, noting that the Afghan people want Egypt to be the first state that stands by the Afghan Government.

Commenting on developments in Afghanistan and the recent clashes in Sorubi and Tagab, President Rabbani explained that the country encountered numerous security and economic problems after the establishment of the Islamic state. He added that certain parties who were involved in the jihad stage went to excesses. Instead of trying to serve the government's interests and the state's stability, Prime Minister Hekmatyar became a source of trouble, Rabbani said. He affirmed that the Defense Ministry's forces led by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud are now in control of most areas and that there is no problem in controlling the Sorubi and Tagab region, where the Sorubi Dam and the power station that serves Kabul are located.

The Afghan president will be accompanied on his visit to Egypt by Vice President Mohammad Nabih Mohammadi [name and title as received]; Higher Education Minister Ostad Seyyed Omar; Water and Electricity Minister Seyyed Mohammad Ayub; deputy ministers for information, labor, and foreign affairs; and a number of political and media key figures.

Bangladesh

DPRK Vice Premier, Zia Confer in Dhaka 13 Nov

BK1311162293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said that Bangladesh wants to see the Korean peninsula become a nuclear free zone and also supports the process for peaceful reunification of the two Koreas. She said this when the visiting vice premier of North Korea, Chang Chol, called on her in Dhaka today. Begum Zia said that friendly ties exists between Bangladesh and North Korea. She said that the

relationship between the two countries started growing since the visit of the late President Ziaur Rahman to North Korea. The prime minister sought the cooperation of North Korea for speedy implementation of the hard rock project at Madhyapara. Begum Zia said that the people of the two countries have gotten the opportunity to know each other due to the cultural exchanges between them. She said that cultural ties between Bangladesh and North Korea should be further expanded to strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

The visiting Korean vice premier expressed hope that the programs taken by the present government to improve the socioeconomic condition of the people would continue. He also expressed optimism that Bangladesh will be able to achieve its objectives in this direction. Mr. Chang thanked the prime minister for extending the support of Bangladesh for peaceful reunification of the two Koreas. He said that the preliminary work of the hard rock project at Madhyapara, with the assistance of his country, has been completed and implementation of the project will begin soon. He also handed over an invitation from President Kim Il-song of Korea to Prime Minister Zia asking her to visit his country. The prime minister accepted the invitation. This visit will be made at a mutually convenient time. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Jahanara Begum and the North Korean ambassador in Bangladesh were also present during the meeting.

The visiting vice premier of North Korea visited the National Museum in Dhaka today. He went around the different galleries of the museum. The state minster for education of North Korea and other members of his delegation also accompanied the vice premier.

Awami League Leader Hasina Visits China

BK1211102193 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina had extensive bilateral talks with the leaders of the Chinese Communist Party in Beijing Sunday [7 November], according to a message received in Dhaka on Sunday night, reports UNB.

"I have come to China with a lot of expectation", Sheikh Hasina was quoted to have told the hosts during her 3-hour talks held in a cordial atmosphere.

Hasina recalled Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's [former president and Hasina's father] visit to China in 1953 and 1957 and said her party would extend all out cooperation to China in all fields and support on international issues.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, party's Advisory Council member S.A.M.S. Kibria, and International Affairs Secretary Abul Hasan Chowdhury MP were present in the meeting while Li Chengren led the Chinese side at the talks.

The Chinese leader praised the leadership of Sheikh Hasina in anti-autocracy movement and restoration of parliamentary democracy in Bangladesh.

Later, Sheikh Hasina along with her party leaders visited the historic "Great Wall" of China and attended "welcoming banquet" at Beijing Hotel as guest of honour.

On her arrival in Beijing on November 6, Hasina was accorded a warm and heartiest reception by the senior leaders of the Chinese government and the Communist Party. She was taken to "Forbidden City" by the Chinese leaders.

Vice-President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Chinese Communist Party and President of Sino-Latin American Association Ziang Gohuan hosted a dinner in honour of Hasina. They exchanged views on bilateral matters.

Refugee Leaders Agree To Talks With Government

BK1211151593 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 5 Nov 93 p 1

[Torun Kumar Bhattacharya report]

[Text] Leaders of the Bangladeshi tribal refugees now living in Tripura State of India have agreed to hold another round of talks with the government of Bangladesh with a view to resolving the complexities related to their repatriation. The venue of this meeting will be either Ramgarh, under Khagrachari District of Bangladesh, or Sabrum, which is a border town of Tripura. This meeting will be held after the sixth round of talks scheduled to take place in the last week of this month between the committee formed by the Bangladesh Government for resolving the Chittagong Hill Tracts tangle and the People's Solidarity Council of the tribal refugees.

The DAILY SANGBAD, an influential Tripura newspaper, in its 29 October issue, reported that Upendra Lal Chakma, who is the president of the Tribal Refugees Welfare Association, has stated that this move for talks has been taken as the tribal leaders have faith in the sincerity of the Bangladesh Government regarding their repatriation. Recently, different Indian newspapers reported that Tripura is facing socioeconomic problems as the Bangladeshi tribal refugees have been living in the state for the past seven years. The reports further said that despite the close watch on the refugees, many of them have fled from the camps and returned to their country. The number of refugees in these camps has decreased significantly as many of them have intermarried with the local population.

Iran

Velayati, UN Official Discuss Chemical Weapons Ban

LD1611172593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Ian Kenyan, executive secretary of the Preliminary Commission on Chemical Weapons at The Hague, met with Foreign Minister Velayati this afternoon.

During the meeting Mr. Velayati referred to the new convention on banning chemical weapons, and said now that the convention has been signed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries it is expected that the present obstacles to the world's industrial development may be removed.

He then referred to the fact that during the last decade Iran has been one of the most seriously affected victims of these types of weapons, and expressed hope that the convention will be implemented fully, and that the powerful countries will not use it as a political instrument to further their specific aims and objectives.

In an interview with our correspondent, Ian Kenyan said about the convention's executive powers: In accordance with the provisions of the convention, within ten years all countries must destroy their chemical weapons and halt their production.

He was asked what measures have been taken in the convention to control certain powerful countries, which on one hand are themselves manufacturers of the world's chemical weapons, and on the other hand issue resolutions against their use and production? He replied:

They are mostly Western countries, and to control them we have prepared a law in the convention under which the transfer of chemical weapons technology from one country to another is prohibited. This convention complements the 1925 convention prohibiting the production and distribution of chemical weapons, which was signed by 154 countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran last Dey [month corresponding to 22 December-20 January 1992-3].

UN Team Invesitgates Iraq's Use of Chemical Weapons

NC1711121193 Paris AFP in English 1112 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov 17 (AFP)—A team of U.N. experts on Wednesday [17 November] conducted on-site investigations in Iraq's southern marshlands on allegations of Baghdad's use of chemical weapons against Shiite Muslims, informed sources said.

They said the team of weapons experts and physicians had left early Wednesday for an unspecified location in the areas allegedly contaminated from chemical attacks.

A member of the mission however, who asked not be named, refused to provide any information on the investigation. "The probe is continuing and we have to wait for the end results," he said.

The 10-member team representing the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq arrived here Sunday and left for a border area in Iran's Khuzestan province on Tuesday, an Iraqi opposition group based in Tehran said.

The Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) 'old AFP that the team was expected to question witnesses and dwellers of the marshlands and conduct soil and water tests in allegedly contaminated areas.

The delegation has already questioned several witnesses over the attacks in Tehran, according to SAIRI.

SAIRI has accused the Iraqi army of using chemical weapons against marsh Arabs since last October. Baghdad has repeatedly denied the charges.

Families of Iranian Hostages in Lebanon Appeal to UN

LD1611110493 Tehran IRNA in English 0921 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, Nov. 16, IRNA—Families of the Iranian hostages, held by Phalangists in Lebanon in 1982, in a letter to the U.N. secretary-general Monday [15 November] called for the release of the hostages.

The letter, handed over by Iran's U.N. envoy Kamal Kharrazi said, "regretfully in the course of the last ten years, a great deal of publicity has been undergone for Western hostages in the mass media, while leaving no attention whatsovever for the fate of other nationalities who had been taken hostage."

It condemned hostage-taking and noted that four Iranian nationals were the first victims of hostage-taking in Lebanon for whom no serious efforts have been undertaken.

The families further said in the letter, "now that all Western hostages in Lebanon are freed, we desparately call upon you to do whatever you find possible and useful to the human pursuit of getting Iranian hostages released."

IRNA photographer, Kazem Akhavan, is one of the hostages held by Phalangists in Lebanon.

Velayati, Eqypt's Musa Reportedly Agree To Improve Ties

NC1311084593 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 8 Nov 93 p 10

[Text] An Iranian source close to the National Security Council (which plans Iran's foreign and security policies)

has said that the talks between Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in New York achieved all their objectives. A date was set for a high-ranking Iranian delegation to visit Cairo to further discuss normalizing bilateral relations.

The Iranian National Security Council, in a meeting attended by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, discussed Velayati's report on his meeting with Musa. The report says Egypt is ready to close the Cairo-based "Voice of Human Rights Radio" [idha'at sawt huquq al-insan], which transmits three hours of Persian broadcasts daily and is supervised by Dr. Manuchehr Ganji, minister of education in the shah's era and leader of the constitutional monarchists, if Iran stops supporting the Islamic Group and expels 35 fundamentalists, including Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, the brother of Anwar al-Sadat's killer.

Musa also expressed his country's desire to sort out Iranian investments in Egypt, estimated at $800 million from the time of the shah.

Sudanese Speaker Khalifah Continues Visit

Praises Relations

EA1411154393 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, chairman of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA], has lauded Sudanese-Iranian relations, saying that the two countries have a joint mission in the world. Mr. Khalifah, who arrived in Tehran on a six-day official visit, stressed Sudan's commitment to the implementation of the Islamic Shari'ah. He said Sudan was being besieged by the states of arrogance [duwal al-istikbar], but in spite of this was forging ahead and continuing to adhere to its Islamic program. Mr. Khalifah is scheduled to meet Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and senior Iranian officials.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

EA1611200393 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1825 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, 15 Nov (SUNA)—Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, chairman of the Transitional National Assembly, has stressed [words indistinct] Sudan would conduct a dialogue with the United States on the basis of facts as opposed to delusions in the context of Sudan's efforts to build bridges of continuity and warm relations with brothers, friends, and the international community in accordance with its declared policy. Khalifah affirmed the fraternal nature of the relations between Sudan and the Islamic Republic of Iran and the need for the two countries to promote these relations. That is what Khalifah said when meeting Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, whom he briefed on the constitutional developments taking place in Sudan towards bringing about a transformation in effecting constitutional legitimacy and an established state. Khalifah went on to give an account of the formation of the Popular Defense Forces [PDF] in Sudan, explaining the recruitment of the masses in the ranks of the forces to defend the homeland. He also provided an account of the economic and social situation.

The Iranian president applauded the delegation's visit and the meetings it had held. He also lauded what had been achieved towards restoring peace in southern Sudan in spite of the fact that some states had [word indistinct] toward the rebels.

(?Khalifah referred) to the conspiracy to which Sudan was being subjected, saying that the map had been altered following the entry of the PDF into the arena. Khalifah called for the development of relations between the two countries and cooperation in the implementation of the shari'ah of God.

The deputy chairman of the Iranian Islamic Consultative Assembly praised the positions adopted by Sudan and its steadfastness in the face of the imperialist conspiracies, stressing the need for unity among the Muslims and the strengthening of parliamentary relations between Sudan and Iran at all levels.

The Iranian foreign minister said that what Sudan was encountering was the result of its civilized program and its determination to preserve its freedom in the making of decisions.

Departs Tehran

LD1611134793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Muhammad Amin Khalifah, the speaker of the National Assembly of Sudan, left Tehran today. He was seen off by Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri. On leaving Tehran he said his talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran officials were constructive, positive, and fruitful. In an interview with our reporter, the speaker of the National Assembly of Sudan, referring to his meeting with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause of the Muslims, said: Seldom are foreign officials blessed with the opportunity to have such meetings. Being honored with the words of wisdom of the leader of the Islamic revolution in that meeting, we now go home full of spirituality and hope. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, on his part, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri said on the result of the visit of the Sudanese team to our country:

[Begin Nateq-Nuri recording] Thank God the visit was very fruitful. He had useful meetings. [passage omitted] Meanwhile, very good debates on executive matters were raised in his meeting with the president of the republic. Then the two of us had one or two meetings together in

which we talked on interparliamentary relations. Parliamentary friendship groups had already been set up. We stressed the need for closer and more frequent contacts. Parliaments can meet more freely and this can also be of help to executive power as well.

We took up another point in our talks, which is the point I always raise with the speakers of the assemblies of the Islamic countries; namely, the establishment of Islamic interparliamentary ties. He welcomed the idea and both of us will follow it up. This will be accomplished. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Announcer] At a news conference today the Sudanese National Assembly speaker stressed the need for unity among the Islamic countries to stand up to America. He said: America continues its hostile moves against the revolutionary and Islamic countries. Therefore, these countries must adopt a unified strategy in their confrontation with America's conspiracies.

Statement on PLO-Israel Compromise

LD1611160093 Tehran IRNA in English 1413 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—Tehran and Khartoum condemn the PLO-Israel compromise as an attempt by all arrogant powers to deny the Palestinian people their ligitimate rights, said a statement here Tuesday [16 November].

The statement, issued at the end of a five-day visit to Tehran of Sudanese parliament speaker Muhammad Amin al-Khalifah, said that vindicating the denied rights of the Palestinian people was the only way to restore peace and calm to the region.

Both Iran and Sudan deplore the double standards applied by international circles on the issues of Somalia, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Azerbaijan and Palestine and want all Muslim states to mobilize to defend the rights of Muslims, it said.

Elsewhere in the statement, the two countries also voiced support for the independence and sovereignty of Bosnia-Hercegvina.

The Sudanese parliament speaker paid a five-day official visit to Tehran at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri. He left here for Khartoum this afternoon.

Commentary Views Cetin's Visit to Israel

NC1511214593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Last night, Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin concluded a three-day official visit to the Zionist entity where he met with his Israeli counterpart to sign a joint protocol on improving cultural, political, and economic relations. Cetin's visit is considered the first visit by a Turkish official on this level to the Zionist entity since 1948. In 1991, diplomatic relations between Turkey and Israel were raised to ambassadorial level. During the past few years, the common and close stands and viewpoints of the two sides on many regional and international events have contributed toward pushing bilateral cooperation in the political and economic fields. After the PLO signed the Gaza-Jericho agreement with the usurping entity, relations between Turkey and Israel entered a new and developed stage. The truth is that Israel has always viewed the secular government in Turkey as its natural ally. In view of the recent circumstances and events, it seems that important responsibilities fall on the shoulders of Turkey toward the Zionist entity.

On this subject, a Turkish newspaper said recently that the most important Israeli request from Turkey, which is considered a member country of the Islamic Conference Organization, is to set the appropriate atmosphere for extending bridges between Israel and the Islamic countries. The newspaper said that the Turkish efforts, whose objective is to urge the Arabs to end the economic boycott against Israel, and the Turkish attempts to support the Gaza-Jericho agreement are considered some of the most important steps in preparing the ground for opening wide the doors of bilateral cooperation between Ankara and Tel Aviv. The Zionist entity considers Turkey its closest ally in the region. This entity does not conceal its desire to strengthen ties with Turkey in order to enter the markets of the region through the Turkish window first, as an introduction to entering these markets from the main gates later.

By winning the friendship of this entity, Turkey seeks to exploit the international Zionist influence to get more loans and international aid, especially from the IMF and the World Bank. Ankara is also interested in the military aspect within this framework. Bolstering its relations with Israel guarantees, from the viewpoint of the Turkish officials, raising the level of Turkish military capabilities in the region.

In addition to the importance of economic standards and factors in the issue of Turkish-Israeli relations, one cannot ignore another important factor represented in the role Turkey can play in facilitating the entry of Zionist capital into Central Asia and the Caucasus. This, in addition to the hopes of the secular Turkish Government pinned on cooperation with Israel in implementing a number of projects in the region, foremost of which is the project to provide [isal] Israel with sweet water and cooperate in the field of confronting the growing Islamic current in the region.

At any rate, many political experts believe that public opinion in Turkey still rejects relations with the Zionist entity, especially since past experiences in this field have proven that moves to improve Turkish-Zionist relations

have always been contrary to the interests of the Turkish people. The Turkish Government cannot ignore this fact.

Further on Velayati Comments on Turkey, France

LD1611142493 Tehran IRNA in English 1247 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov., 16, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati denied a morning newspaper report claiming that Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller had proposed that Ankara would take action to root out Kurdish rebels in the Iranian region of Maku, close to the border with Turkey. Velayati said the report is "absolutely wrong."

In an interview with the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' published Tuesday [16 November] Velayati said the issue was not raised during the meeting of Turkish prime minister and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi last Friday.

The Persian language daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Monday strongly warned Ciller of "not exceeding her limits."

Further in the interview Velayati denounced the grenade attacks on the French Embassy and the Air France office here on November 9.

The Information Ministry announced last week that the terrorist Mujahideen Khalq [Mojahedin-e Khalq] organization (MKO) was involved in attacks on French interests.

On granting asylum to Maryam Rajavi, wife of the terrorist leader, Mas'ud Rajavi, by France, Velayati said, "It has an impact on the Irano-French relations." He said that Paris has adopted a policy of double standard on this issue. "On the one hand the west including France condemns terrorism and on the other they give asylum to these unwanted elements," he said. "To give asylum to such elements by France contradicts that country's claim on nurturing democracy and human rights," the daily quoted Velayati as having said.

As for the crisis in the Caucasus region, he expressed concern over the issue and announced Iran's readiness to do "what is in its reach to pave the way for peace." "On the international level, we had our share and efforts for getting through a Security Council resolution on the Caucasus region," he added. Commenting on the Azeri refugees fleeing to Iran from the Armenian attacks, he said Tehran is shouldering their responsibility "single-handedly."

Criticizing the silence of the international bodies on this isue, Velayati said that even the U.N. high commissioner for refugees (UNHCR) did not give a hand to Iran.

On postponment of the visit to Tehran of Iraqi Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, Velayati said that he believed that the Iraqi official did not come because of presence of a U.N. expert delegation that arrived in Tehran Sunday to probe into Baghdad's chemical bombardment of the southern Iraqi marshlands. The foreign minister maintained that Iran was ready to receive the Iraqi delegation in the near future, wrote the daily.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Greets Pakistani President

LD1511115293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has sent a message to Ahmed Leghari, the Pakistani president, congratulating him on his election to the post. In his message, the president expresses the hope that the election will pave the way for the greatest possible expansion of fraternal and friendly ties between Iran and Pakistan.

Friday Sermon Criticizes Hazratbal 'Siege'

LD1211200293 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1552 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Meshkini in Qom on 12 November—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] I now address the issue of crimes committed by the Indian army in the shrine of Hazratbal. We complain to God about the crimes they are committing. We wish to pray for our Indian Muslim brothers and we want to be able to help them. We, the Iranian people, clergy, and government, call on and implore India, the Government of India, which has a degree of friendly relations with the Iranian Government to do something so that such crimes are not committed against Muslims. And it is only because they are Muslims. There should not be so much injustice against them. Some time ago one of their great historic mosques, the Baberi mosque, was destroyed. Now another mosque and another shrine is under siege. They are beating and killing [Muslims]. We hope that they will see justice and that the Government of India will put an end to such crimes. [crowd chants]

There is another issue that I would like to point out briefly. Please pay attention because I don't want to speak too long. Gentlemen, you are well aware that the Majles is the highest institution of the country and the most legal source of reference for the affairs of the world, and possibly the affairs of religion. Such is the Majles. They are honored and approved by all the people and by the esteemed leader of the revolution. Recently, through their vote of confidence they showed their unity and good intentions toward the president and cabinet members. In the execution of their religious and legal duties the honorable Majles members recently investigated the radio and television service. It was their duty to investigate the affairs of the radio and television. They reported the result of their investigations to the esteemed leader, the honorable president, and the noble people of Iran.

On behalf of the noble people, the clerical community, and myself I would like to offer them my copious thanks and appreciation. And I would like to ask for the execution of such sacred acts in all matters. I hope, God willing, that our Majles brothers and sisters will carry out such duties in all spheres to the satisfaction of the people.

Commentary Analyzes OPEC Policies

LD1411205893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Crude oil prices fell at the world open markets on 12 November. Compared to the week before, the fall was significant and unprecedented in the past five years. This is despite the fact that the OPEC President Jean Ping has declared that all the OPEC members have observed their new quotas.

The price changes are taking places at a time when most oil experts have forecast that the price of oil would rise to reach the OPEC oil basket price as the cold season approaches. However, the falling price shows that the OPEC members should adopt a new approach vis-a-vis global developments. [passage omitted]

The OPEC members should think of an appropriate system, enabling them to react to new plans by the industrial countries. The last such plan is the newly-proposed green-tax. The OPEC members, while reducing production, should strive to strengthen their unity. They should also, by explaining to the non-OPEC producers that falling oil prices will harm them too, strive to maintain unity at the international market level.

Commentary Assails Joint U.S.-Egyptian Exercises

LD1511160493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The joint U.S.-Egyptian military show, with the title of Bright Star, started yesterday in the desert region near the Egyptian port of Alexandria. [passage omitted]

The restart of the so-called Bright Star military show poses this question: Why did Washington stop these maneuvers after nine years but restart them after a four-year period? [passage omitted]

Developments in the past few months, including the spread of the Islamic intifada in Palestine, the establishment of an Islamic system in Sudan, the bitter political and military defeats of Washington in Somalia, and the formation of a front opposed to the PLO-Israel deal have contributed to the weakening of the U.S. position in the region and increased the possibility of new developments against U.S. interests in the region.

This situation has caused the simultaneous U.S. maneuvers in the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf. Of course if we analyze Egypt's domestic situation within this context, it becomes even more clear why Egypt is the main American partner in these maneuvers. The inability of the Egyptian regime to solve its domestic crisis and confront the Islamists is a source of concern for U.S. statesmen.

Comparing American maneuvers of the past decade to those in the present decade indicates that America has practically lost the use of many bases, such as Sudan, Jordan, Somalia, and Lebanon. Furthermore, it would not be impossible for America to lose Egypt as well. But since Egypt, after Israel, is the most important axis of U.S. policy in the Middle East, American investment in maintaining Egypt should not come as a surprise.

By placing Muslim Egyptian soldiers next to American troops, the White House has embarked on a dangerous gamble from which it cannot escape and the outcome of which concerns Washington.

It should be added that some military experts think the Bright Star military maneuvers are a threat to Libya, which has been under Washington's various military and political pressures. These experts think that Libya, the closest foreign country to the area of the maneuvers, was the main target of the maneuvers, particularly after the rumor that some military movements had taken place inside that country.

But over and above all these possibilities, the main aim of the Bright Star maneuvers is to extinguish the flames of popular opposition by having an American military presence in the region.

Canadian Company Said To Own Crashed Plane

NC1611181193 Paris AFP in English 1733 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov 16 (AFP)—A cargo plane on a flight from Dubayy to Tashkent plunged into mountains in southeastern Iran killing all 17 people on board, an official told AFP on Tuesday. [16 November]

The Iranian news agency said the Russian-made Antonov-124 plane which crashed Monday was owned by the Canadian company Atlantair, after earlier reporting it was operated by the Dubayy-based Globetrotters Tourism and Cargo company.

It was carrying equipment and exhibitors back from the Dubayy air show, which was held last week, IRNA said.

Rescuers who arrived at the scene on Tuesday morning discovered wreckage and bodies scattered on the Chupar mountains, 40 kilometres (25 miles) south of Kerman, the regional governor 'Ali Sandjarizadeh [name as received] said by telephone.

"The plane seemed to have had a problem with its altimeter and was flying too low," as it approached Kerman airport for a refuelling stop, he said.

Fourteen of the dead were Russians and the three others "probably Arabs," Sandjarizadeh said.

In February, a Russian Tupolev-134 plane chartered by Iran Air Tours crashed after being hit by a Sukhoy-22 fighter-bomber on take-off from Tehran airport.

A total of 134 people died.

Embassy in Canada Rejects Paper's Charges

LD1311122093 Tehran IRNA in English 1124 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA—The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Canada Friday [12 November] reiterated Tehran's support for the establishment of lasting peace and humanitarian and peaceful measures.

In a letter to the Quebec-based "LE DEVOIR" daily, sent in reply to a recent article by the paper in which Iran and Syria were referred to as advocates of terrorism and opponents of the Middle East peace process, the embassy noted that Iran had always condemned forceful means for the settlement of disputes.

The letter further added that Iran itself was a victim of international terrorism and many Iranian officials, as well as ordinary civilians, had been killed by terrorist groups.

It pointed to a recent report by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and noted that according to the report, Iran was presently hosting 4.5 million refugees, the largest number in the world.

Accepting such a high number of refugees is a proof to Iran's good-will and cooperation in humanitarian programs and active participation in them.

French Moves Against Algerian FIS Supporters Criticized

LD1511145193 Tehran IRNA in English 1331 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA—A prominent political analyst and Majlis deputy, Mohammad Javad Larijani has criticized France for imposing limitations on sympathizers of Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in that country.

Commenting on the French policy Larijani in an article published in Monday's issue of the TEHRAN TIMES titled "A Bit of Common Sense is Needed", wrote, "Even the prospect of assumption of political power by the fundamentalists in Algeria would be a real nightmare for the French Government."

That is why, he said, they can prescribe harsh measures against the fundamentalists, regardless of the so-called human rights concerns or democracy criterion.

According to Agence France Presse (AFP) police in France has taken precautionary measures at some mosques in Paris since Saturday to prevent distribution of FIS leaflets by Algerian nationals residing in that country.

"Freedom of speech is good for everybody and any expression of ideas (even Rushdie's Satanic Verses) is permissible, but, it is not in any way permissible for fundamentalists to express their view," Larijani regretted.

"Oppression, torture, summary trials and executions are unacceptable universally and unconditionally, but, for Algerians there is an exception. Why?," he asked.

Islamic Salvation Front scored a landslide victory in Algerian general election in January 1990, but the government cancelled the polls. Larijani said, "The world would be a much better and safer place if we got rid of egotism and naivety and especially from "divine" guardianship apparently bestowed on some western states."

"If we enjoyed a bit of common sense, at least as much as Alice in Wonderland, we could escape safely from such devastating inconsistencies," he concluded.

Commentary Assesses Kohl's Visit to China

NC1611083893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has arrived in Beijing at the head of a 180-man delegation including four ministers and the representatives of 40 large German companies. In his meeting with Beijing's high-ranking officials, Kohl discussed bilateral relations and regional and international issues.

Chinese Premier Li Peng described the international roles played by Beijing and Bonn as effective and stressed that the interests of China and Germany don't clash and the two sides' cooperation and economic-commercial development are favorable. He said German-Chinese cooperation benefits world peace and stability.

Kohl too stressed that Germany wants to strengthen its economic and commercial cooperation with China and that there are no problems for Germany in expanding bilateral cooperation in science and technology.

Kohl's visit to China comes at a time when the United States is trying to pressure Beijing and has imposed sanctions on China. The pressure has found Beijing diverting its foreign policy toward other European countries that do not have colonialist objectives. Thus, it has greatly reduced the pressure by the United States.

Despite repeated U.S. requests to European countries to impose uniform pressures on China, these countries have not given in to the spiteful and bullying policies of the United States and have placed their national interests at the top of their foreign policy list.

As for the bilateral relations between Beijing and Bonn, China believes that even though its economic system does not conform with Germany's, the two systems can complement each other. By adopting an open-door policy and making economic reforms, China hopes to enjoy German cooperation in its development programs.

Today, because of the great significance China attaches to its agricultural, industrial, scientific, and technological improvement, Chinese leaders are very interested in Germany's role as China's largest commercial partner in Europe and its role as the country transferring the West's advanced science and technology. In addition, China wants German investment in economic and development fields.

In view of China's spectacular economic progress, Western countries are competing to expand economic relations with China. Germany is China's largest commercial partner in Europe and China is Germany's second largest commercial partner in Asia. The volume of trade between the two countries amounted to $6.5 billion during the past nine months and it is estimated to increase to $8.5 billion following Kohl's visit.

As well as China's economic significance for Germany, Bonn intends to gain China's support for its permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

Iran Sells Oil From Storage Facilities in Greece

NC1511211493 Paris AFP in English 1203 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Nicosia, Nov 15 (AFP)—Iran's National Oil Company (NIOC) this month started selling oil stored in Greece, the Cyprus-based weekly review Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday [15 November].

The measure is part of Iran's efforts to improve the flexibility of its oil marketing operations in the Mediterranean and northwestern Europe, and came as a result of a storage agreement with Greece's Motor Oil Hellas, MEES added.

NIOC has also acquired storage space in Rotterdam in the Netherlands, Le Havre in France and Sweden, MEES said.

NIOC is also implementing an agreement with Sumed (the Suez-Mediterranean pipeline company), concluded last July, for the transit of its oil through the Sumed system directly rather than through international traders, and for the leasing of long term storage capacity at the Mediterranean terminal of Sidi Kerir, Egypt, MEES added.

Austrian Official Confers with Commerce Minister

NC1411080693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] The Austrian deputy minister for economic affairs met with Iranian Commerce Minister Al-e Eshaq in Tehran yesterday. During this meeting the Austrian deputy minister conveyed Austria's willingness to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to the Central Asian markets, the PRC-Kazakhstan-Iran railroad project, and in providing greater facilities for Iran's repayments to Austria.

Our commerce minister welcomed the broadening of trade relations between the two countries and proposed that if the conditions are suitable there should be a quid pro quo exchange of goods between Iran and Austria.

New Swiss Ambassador Submits Credentials, Views Relations

LD1511094493 Tehran IRNA in English 0740 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA—The new Swiss ambassador to Tehran, Radolf Weier Smuller, Sunday [14 November] underscored the importance of the crucial role Iran was playing in the region and called for promotion of Tehran-Bern ties. Smuller, who was speaking in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, also voiced his country's readiness to cooperate with Iran in issues related to the refugees.

In reply Velayati hoped for further consolidation of Tehran-Bern ties. The new ambassador submitted his credentials to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sunday.

Cabinet Holds Extraordinary Session

NC1411073693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Yesterday afternoon the ministerial cabinet held an extraordinary session chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The assessment of the generalities of the second economic, social, and cultural development plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran continued at this session.

Amphibious Military Maneuvers End

LD1611193493 Tehran IRNA in English 1921 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Mahshahr (Khuzestan), Nov. 16, IRNA—The fourth and last phase of Nasr-1 amphibian maneuvers by the Iranian armed forces, that are preparatory to the projected Fath-3 war games here, were performed in the coastal waters of the Persian Gulf Tuesday [16 November].

The units participating in the maneuvers were the Kowsar Fleet, Imam Hassan Support Fleet, engineering units of Takavaran Battalion, army naval units, frogmen, and minesweeping battalions.

The maneuvers aimed to test the capacity of the Iranian armed forces for different amphibean operations.

Third Television Network To Be Launched 5 Dec

LD1411130193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRIB] has announced that The Vision's third television network will begin transmissions on 5 December,the birthday anniversary of Her Holiness Fateme Zahra—God's peace be upon her—with the objective of filling the young people's leisure time.

IRIB chief Mohammad Hashemi in an interview yesterday evening, pointed out: The network will be televising four hours of varied programs, including the visage of the Koran, sports programs, plays, and music. He said: Another objective of the network is recreation for the community. The programs of the third network will differ from those of the first and second networks, and efforts will be made, with existing resources, for proper coverage throughout the country. [passage omitted]

In his news conference, Mohammad Hashemi referred to his 12 years of service as manager of IRIB and said: Eight of those years were during the lifetime of his eminence the imam, may God Almighty be pleased with him. Referring to the monitoring of programs by his eminence the imam, he said: The demised imam declared his total satisfaction with the programs. Mr. Hashemi added: Those who say the programs should not be joyful have, in my view, no understanding of Islam, since joyful programs do not detract from Islamic laws.

In the past, radio and television were not under the direct supervision of the velayat and a supervisory council, whose members were representatives from the three powers that supervised them. However, according to an amendment to the constitution, this medium was put under the direct supervision of the supreme jurisconsult and the exalted leadership appointed me as its head in 1368 [year starting 21 March 1989]. Not only do we carry out our duties under his supervision but we are also obliged by law to enact his viewpoints.

The head of IRIB added: Any time the exalted leadership makes any recommendations, we obey them cordially, and we shall continue to obey them since that is our duty by religious and constitutional law. Therefore, we are not going to change our direction by the say so of others.

The IRIB head announced: We have programs for overseas. Information regarding these will be given to those interested at an appropriate time.

IRNA To Launch Persian Service

LD1211153193 Tehran IRNA in English 1448 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbaijan Prov., Nov. 12, IRNA—The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA) is shortly to send reports in Persian in addition to its present English and Arabic dispatches, IRNA's managing director Fereydun Verdinejad said here Friday [12 November].

He said IRNA international subscribers may subscribe to the Persian service of IRNA upon their request.

Foreign subscribers, however, are likely to increase once the project, the first Persian service for the world, has started.

Meanwhile, Vardinezhad laid emphasis on the role of reporting and journalism in a free society, saying in the Islamic Republic, media reporters can promote the dignity of their job by judicious reporting and reflection of the facts they observe in the society.

He said reporters can also identify the "vox jus" in the society and give it the prominence that it deserves.

Foundation Head Explains Dissolution of Companies

LD1311171993 Tehran IRNA in English 1259 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA—Head of the 'Janbazan and Mostazafan' (disabled and deprived) Foundation Mohsen Rafiqdoust here Saturday [13 November] elaborated on the reasons for the recent selling or dissolution of a number of the companies affiliated to the foundation.

Speaking to IRNA he pointed to non-conformity of the activities of some of the companies with present economic status of the country as one of the reasons for such a decision by the foundation.

Emphasizing that the foundation was responsible to keep its companies active and profit-making, he said when a company cannot conform with the foundation's policy, it would be either sold or dissolved.

However, noted Rafiqdoust, the foundation would act in accordance with the law and would pay all due wages and salaries of the workers and staff of the dissolved company.

The foundation has some 800 different companies, 500 of which are operating in industry, mining, construction, tourism, transportation and agriculture fields.

Pakistan

Government Welcomes End of Shrine Siege in Kashmir

Bhutto Expresses 'Profound Relief'

BK1611142293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, the siege of dargah [shrine] Hazratbal came to a dramatic end as the inmates gave themselves up to the Indian troops in the early hours this morning. As more than 60 inmates walked out of the complex, they were immediately taken into custody by Indian soldiers and taken to Akura security forces camp for interrogation.

A Kashmiri leader, Professor Abdul Ghani Butt, in an interview in Srinagar said the inmates of dargah Hazratbal were all Kashmiris. This, he said, belied Indian allegations that Afghans, Sudanese, and Pakistanis were among the inmates barricaded inside the dargah. The siege of dargah Hazratbal by thousands of Indian troops lasted exactly for a month which brought life to a standstill in the held valley. More than 70 innocent people were killed in protest rallies against the siege of Hazratbal complex.

At least 30 people are reported killed in clashes with Indian troops at various places. Protest rallies and demonstrations continued in the held valley against the brutal behavior of Indian soldiers.

The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has expressed profound relief at the lifting of the siege of Hazratbal and hoped the Indian authorities would take immediate steps to lower tension in Kashmir and ensure basic human rights for the Kashmiri people. In a statement issued in Islamabad today, the prime minister saluted the courage and fortitude of the Kashmiri freedom fighters who resisted the siege for their just and noble cause under the most arduous conditions. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto called upon the international community, the media, and human rights organizations to ensure that the Kashmiri freedom fighters who are now being interrogated are treated with dignity and in accordance with the universally accepted norms of justice.

Foreign Office Hails Resolution

BK1611160493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Pakistan has experienced a sense of relief over reports of ending the regretful siege of Hazratbal Shrine at Srinagar in occupied Kashmir without any further loss of life. A Foreign Office statement issued in Islamabad today said the end of the siege makes it amply clear that India's mischievous allegations regarding the involvement of Pakistan are totally baseless. The statement noted Pakistan's hope that the siege will be completely lifted and the Indian troops will vacate the areas in the vicinity of the shrine. The statement also expressed the hope that there will be a reduction in the atrocities committed by Indian troops on Kashmiri people after the lifting of the Hazratbal Shrine siege and Indian authorities will grant permission to the representatives of foreign media and human rights organizations to freely visit occupied Kashmir.

Confidence-Building Measures Urged

BK1711112393 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 17 Nov 93 p 7

[Editorial: "Siege Ends, But Blame-Game Continues"]

[Text] The siege of the Hazratbal shrine finally ended early Tuesday morning when the 65 people holed up in the shrine complex since October 15 surrendered. Prime Minister Narashimha Rao said that there had been no deal with 65 inmates from the shrine and that the surrender was voluntary. The end of the siege will be welcomed by everyone, since the standoff was a potential trigger for massive violence. At least 50 people protesting against the siege were killed by security forces in occupied Kashmir on October 22 and the potential for more protests and violence against demonstrators remained a volatile issues.

The siege of the holiest place for Muslims in occupied Kashmir has once again raised questions about India's treatment of minorities and their places of worship. In 1984, Indian forces stormed a holy site for Sikhs at Amritaar's Golden Temple. More recently,the destruction of the Babri Masjid in Ayhodhya fuelled massive riots.

Indian officials say that Muslim ulema have confirmed that the holy relic, a hair from the beard of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), is safe, which comes as a major relief. The end of the siege provides the Indian government an opportunity to mend fences and lay the groundwork for peaceful negotiations with the Kashmiris. The road to understanding should not be paved with allegations that New Delhi continues to hurl at Pakistan. State-run Doordashan television journalists were the only ones allowed to witness the end of the siege and one person, allegedly an inmate was shown on television saying that he was from Azad Kashmir. Indian officials have further alleged that at least two of the people holed up in the shrine are Pakistanis. It is also claimed that a large cache of arms including rifles, grenades and rocket launchers have been recovered from the shrine. These allegations make the issue very murky and the fact that the actual surrender took place in virtual secrecy and without independent observers to witness it, casts doubts on Indian charges. Foreign journalists, present in Srinagar since the siege began, have not been allowed to observe and record the events of Tuesday morning. The entire area remained under curfew for the rest of the day.

If India has nothing to hide, why does it hide everything so much? The first step towards better relations is to institute measures to build confidence in each other and develop mutual understanding. "Relations between the

two continue to remain had and will deterioate further if allegations like these continue to fly across borders. Sometimes, verbal salvos are just as deadly as missiles. Instead of viewing each other with constant suspicion and expelling diplomats at the drop of a hat, Islamabad and New Delhi seek ways and means of keeping lines of communication open. The alternative of silence is grim and menacing.

Kashmir Premier Urges India To Start Dialogue

BK1511155193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] The Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] cabinet has expressed total solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir and praised the present Pakistani Government's courageous stand on the Kashmir issue. At its meeting in Muzaffarabad today, the cabinet adopted a resolution calling upon the United Nations and the international community to pressure India to lift the siege of the Hazratbal Shrine and halt atrocities against the Kashmiri people.

Addressing the cabinet, AJK Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan made it clear that durable peace cannot be established in the region without a settlement of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. He called upon India to start a meaningful dialogue to resolve the Kashmir problem.

Leghari—India Should 'Stop' Human Rights Abuses

BK1611144293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said India should immediately stop the massive human rights violtions in occupied Kashmir and create conducive environment for resolution of the problem through negotiation. The president was talking to the British Parliamentary under secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth office, Mr. Mark Lennox-Boyd, who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadar [President House] today. The president emphasized that the indigenous struggle of the people of Kashmir could not be suppressed by the use of brute force.

Mr. Mark Lennox-Boyd underlined the need to expose the human rights situation in Kashmir more vividly to the outside world. Mr. Boyd also had a meeting with the Chairman of Senate, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, and expressed concern over the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. He said he will do his best to ease tension between India and Pakistan. Mr. Wasim Sajjad said international pressure could force India to a negotiated settlement of the Kashmir issue. He said parliamentarians, jurists, and international organizations should mount efforts to achieve the objective.

Justice, Foreign Ministers Sworn In 16 Nov

BK1611142893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Two more federal ministers have been inducted in the federal cabinet. They are Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and Syed Iqbal Haider. The new ministers were sworn in at a ceremony at the Aiwan- i-Sadr [president house] in Islamabad this evening. President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari administered the oath. Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto was also present.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has been given the portfolio of foreign minister, while Syed Iqbal Haider will be the federal minister for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs.

Air-to-Surface Missile Program Launched

BK1611122393 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 16 Nov 93 p 5

[Text] Karachi: Pakistan has launched a programme to manufacture an air to-surface missile to be fixed on Pakistan Navy's Aloutte helicopters, official sources said here on Monday.

Briefing journalism from the federal capital, a Pakistan Navy spokesman said: Pakistan has succeeded in fixing depth charges on these French-made helicopters and is now working to equip the Alouette squardron with depth charges and a missile."

The experts in Pakistan, he said, were now engaged in designing and developing the missile which would soon enter the production stage. Initial experiments have already been carried out in this regard and the required material has been acquired for the purpose, he added.

The proposed missile was planned keeping in view a similar French product.

This would be perhaps the first venture Pakistan has taken in hand after successfully manufacturing Anxa and Half missiles locally in the recent past. If it is successful, it would be a big step in indigemisation of defence production, thus saving foreign exchange and enhancing country's defence capabilities with the existing defence equipment. "Pakistan is the only country in the world which has developed the capability to use Alouette helicopters for this purpose enhancing its role to anti-automarine operation as well as its use to attack the ships," the spokesman added.

Referring to the creation of the Aviation Wing and its operational capability, the spokesman said that the Pakistan Navy was carrying out the complete overhual of all its three squadrone of Atlantique surveillance cum combat aircraft, Sea King and Aloutte helicopters. He gave details of the rebuild work being done at the complex, saying that it was the same as was being carried out at PAC Kamra.

The Pakistan Navy has brought about a number of modifications in its aircraft and choppers. Pakistani experts, engineers and technicians have acquired the capabilities which in some cases the most advanced countries do not have. For instance, the overhual and rebuild of Atlantique aircraft was done only by Pakistan while the French Navy send the aircraft to the manufacturer, a French company.

He, however, stressed the need to upgrade and add new-generation maritime aircraft and choppers in the Naval Aviation Wing. He referred to the purchase of three P-3 Orion aircraft for the navy and said the lelivery of these aircraft was stopped following the application of the Pressier Amendment. "If the Amendment had been delayed by a few weeks, the aircraft could have reached Pakistan," the spokesman said.

He added that Pakistani crew had already completed its training on the aircraft. Since then, Pakistan has been paying millions of dollars as storage charges to the US for the three aircraft which are parked at a US base, he added.

Armed Forces Chiefs Finalize Defense Requirements

BK1711113793 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 17 Nov 93 p 1

[By Shakil Shaikh]

[Text] Islamabad—Besides discussing a number of important matters, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, which met here at the Services headquarters on Tuesday, finalised a list of essential defence requirements, keeping in view the budgetary constraints.

Presided over by Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Shamim Alam, the meeting was participated by the Chief of Army Staff General Abdul Waheed, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan and Naval Chief Admiral Sayeed Ahmad Khan. The meeting which lasted for more than four hours, discussed important matters, including the country's defence, situation in Kashmir, post-election scenario and the satisfactory role of the armed forces during the phased-wise completion of elections.

Sources say that the most important matter on the agenda of the meeting was to finalise the list of defence requirements, which included tanks for Army, ships for Pakistan navy and aircraft for Pakistan Air Force.

During her visits to headquarters of the respective three forces couple of weeks ago, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had reportedly directed the respective chiefs of Staff to prepare a list of immediate defence requirements so that the country's defence should be strengthened in the wake of prevailing situation in Indian-held Kashmir.

It is now understood that the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCOSC) has approved the list, with slight modifications in view of the budgetary resources available with the government. Now, the same list will be sent to the Prime Minister shortly for her approval, before the Defence Production Division formally undertakes the task of purchasing defence-related equipemnt.

The visit of US Assistant Secretary of State Ms Robin Raphel was also discussed, particularly her meeting with different Pakistani leaders during her stay in Islamabad.

The JCOSC meeting was held after about two months and sources confided to THE NEWS that "it was a scheduled meeting to review important matters".